

## TCC head said named as adviser

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Post and Communication Hashem Dabbas has appointed Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director General Ahmad Nawawi as his adviser and designated the corporation's inspector general, Walid Dweik, as acting TCC director general in addition to his normal duties, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i. Informed sources told the Jordan Times last week that Mr. Nawawi had reversed an earlier decision to resign his post and decided to retain his job at the head of the corporation. Reports said that Mr. Nawawi had presented his resignation over two weeks ago and that it was accepted by the cabinet. His resignation came two days after a controversial interview, during which he announced the cancellation of a contract that gave a local company a 15-year monopoly for radio-paging services. In the interview, which was published in Al Ra'i, Mr. Nawawi defended his decision to award a contract for cellular phone services to a local group that would introduce the service in cooperation with the U.S. company Motorola.

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## Talal Al Hassan leads for U.N.

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan left for New York Sunday to head the Jordanian delegation to the 49th session of the United Nations General Assembly which begins on Sept. 20. Mr. Hassan would stop in Brussels, for talks with the European Union (EU) Commissioner General and senior officials from the EU Commission on bilateral relations. Mr. Hassan said while in New York he will hold talks with senior U.N. officials and Arab and foreign ministers to brief them on the latest developments in the region, particularly the developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track, and to discuss bilateral relations.

## Minister meets new Lebanese envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Talal Al Hassan on Sunday received a copy of the credentials of the newly-appointed Lebanese ambassador to Jordan, William Farid Habib. Mr. Habib replaces Ahmad Ibrahim, who has been named Lebanon's ambassador to Poland.

## Swedish coalition defeated in polls

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's centre-right coalition government was defeated in a general election on Sunday as the country swung to the left, according to an official forecast. With 121 of 711 electoral districts counted, the opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) was within just seven seats of winning an overall majority in parliament. The early returns indicated Ingvar Carlsson's SDP would have the choice of forming a coalition government with the small Liberal Party or with the leftist Left and Green parties. The ex-communist Left Party won 23 seats, up by seven from the last election in 1991 while the Green Party made a triumphant return to parliament with 21 seats after failing to win any in 1991. The returns showed two rightist parties, the Christian Democrats and the far-right New Democracy Party, failing to win any seats at all, while support for Prime Minister Carl Bildt's Moderate Party remained stable.

## Algeria denies links to Morocco violence

LONDON (R) — Algeria has denied accusations by Morocco that its security services trained gunmen who attacked a hotel in Marrakech in order to destabilise the kingdom. "Algeria categorically refutes these baseless allegations which have recently been nourished by the infertile imagination of the Moroccan Interior Ministry," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement broadcast by official Algerian radio on Saturday.

## Israel expects Ross on Tuesday

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The U.S. Middle East peace talks coordinator, Dennis Ross, will arrive in Israel on Tuesday evening to prepare for Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit in October, the foreign ministry announced. Mr. Ross will fly from Damascus to Israel, where he will hold talks on Wednesday and Thursday before returning to Washington, the ministry said in a communiqué. Mr. Christopher was expected to begin his next Middle East shuttle early next month.

## PNA puts out tenders for Gaza airport

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) put out tenders Sunday for the planning and first phase of construction of an airport on the Gaza Strip. The authority's transport and communications ministry urged interested parties to send bids by Oct. 15.

# Fate of Haiti in balance as Carter presses effort

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — The possibility of an American-led invasion of Haiti hung in the balance Sunday as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter pressed his talks and went in to new discussions with the Haitian junta and their interim president.

Mr. Carter and his delegation ended six hours of talks at army headquarters with leaders of the 1991 coup shortly before 5 p.m. (2100 GMT).

They then all went to the nearby presidential palace for discussions with President Emile Jonassaint, head of the military-installed government that Washington has branded as illegal.

The U.S. team, including retired top General Colin Powell and Senator Sam Nunn, has had four rounds of discussions with the junta totalling 13½ hours since it arrived here Saturday but there was no word on progress.

In Washington, Vice President Al Gore said in a live television interview that he was neither "optimistic nor pessimistic" on chances for



Jimmy Carter

an accord to avoid an invasion by 20,000 troops.

He cautioned against putting too much meaning into the meeting with Mr. Jonassaint and said, "this can go either way."

President Bill Clinton and his top security aides were at the White House awaiting word from Mr. Carter, who would likely phone from the plane taking the delegation home. They were due to have left hours earlier at midday.

Mr. Carter and

Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras left military headquarters and drove together the 250 metres to the national palace, rousing speculation that Mr. Jonassaint's views were being sought on a possible deal.

Gen. Powell and Sen. Nunn, also went to the national palace.

CBS television's Dan Rather, in Port-Au-Prince, reported that there was an outline agreement providing for the generals to step down that Mr. Carter would put to President Clinton for his approval.

Mr. Carter, U.S. president until 1981, had been briefed by Mr. Clinton only to discuss the ways the junta could leave power, allowing a peaceful restoration of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Haitian military Chief of Staff Brigadier General Philippe Biamby had also been at the meeting with Mr. Carter but not the third junta member, Port-Au-Prince police chief Colonel Michel Francois.

Vice-President Gore told CNN television in Washing-

ton that the talks would probably end Sunday, but he refused to be drawn on how they were going.

Gen. Cedras was seen by reporters a few minutes before 5 p.m. (2200 GMT) to leave the meeting room and walk along a balcony to another office.

He had earlier briefly left the meeting and gone across the street to the national palace, raising speculation that he was consulting Mr. Jonassaint, whose agreement would presumably be needed for any deal.

Mr. Gore said the talks between Haiti's military strongmen and the U.S. delegation were at a "delicate stage" and cautioned against characterising the discussions as pessimistic or optimistic.

"I would not want anyone to think it was definitely going one way or the other now. It could go either way... the only thing for sure is that democracy will be restored to Haiti," he said.

Mr. Gore described the discussions as focusing only on "the modalities of departure."

## GCC ministers welcome Washington Declaration

RIYADH (Agencies) — Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have welcomed the Washington Declaration of Jordan and Israel.

The GCC foreign ministers ended a regular meeting in the Saudi capital Riyadh after restating demands that Iraq recognise Kuwait's sovereignty.

"The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) condemns Iraq's attempt to dissolve the binding international obligations (imposed on it)," said a statement issued after the end of the meeting late on Saturday and carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

The statement said Iraq should recognise Kuwait's sovereignty and U.N.-demarcated borders and return prisoners whom Kuwait says have been held by Baghdad since its occupation of the emirate in 1990-91.

The GCC states are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The GCC statement also welcomed last month's preliminary agreement between Jordan and Israel signed on July 25 in Washington.

"The council welcomes the progress made on the Jordanian-Israeli track," it

said, calling for world pressure on Israel not to block the exercise of Palestinian autonomy and "not to change the situation in Jerusalem prior to 1967."

The GCC urged Iran to accept international arbitration in its dispute with the UAE over three small islands in the Gulf.

"As Iran has not shown any serious desire to discuss ending its occupation of the Lesser and Greater Tunbs and Abu Musa, the council invites Iran to accept a referral of this dispute to the international Court of Justice," it said.

The ministers also hailed the progress made on the Palestinian track of the Middle East peace process.

They urged the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the process, to put pressure on Israel to "remove" the obstacles it is placing in the path of the Palestinian Authority.

But they also expressed "deep concern" at the lack of progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, blaming Israel for "rejecting the principles" agreed on at the October 1991 Middle East conference in Madrid which launched the peace process.

## Yemen criticises S. Arabia for urging talks with exiles

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen accused Saudi Arabia Sunday of meddling in its internal affairs after the kingdom's foreign minister urged Sanaa to open a dialogue with secessionists who were vanquished in Yemen's recent civil war.

"We had expected Prince Saud Al Faisal to announce normalisation of relations between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in response to the Yemeni government's request for extinguishing the fire of sedition that the treacherous separatists set alight," an official statement said.

It contained a veiled charge that Saudi Arabia had backed southern Yemeni leaders during the two-month civil war that ended after government forces conquered southern strongholds July 7.

Sanaa had hoped to "open a new page" in relations with Saudi Arabia, "even though everyone knows the identity of the party that financed that sedition in which Yemeni lives were lost and Yemen's economic infrastructure was destroyed," said the statement, carried by the official news agency SABA.

Prince Saud made his call

for an inter-Yemen dialogue in a speech Saturday at the opening session of a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) conference in Riyadh.

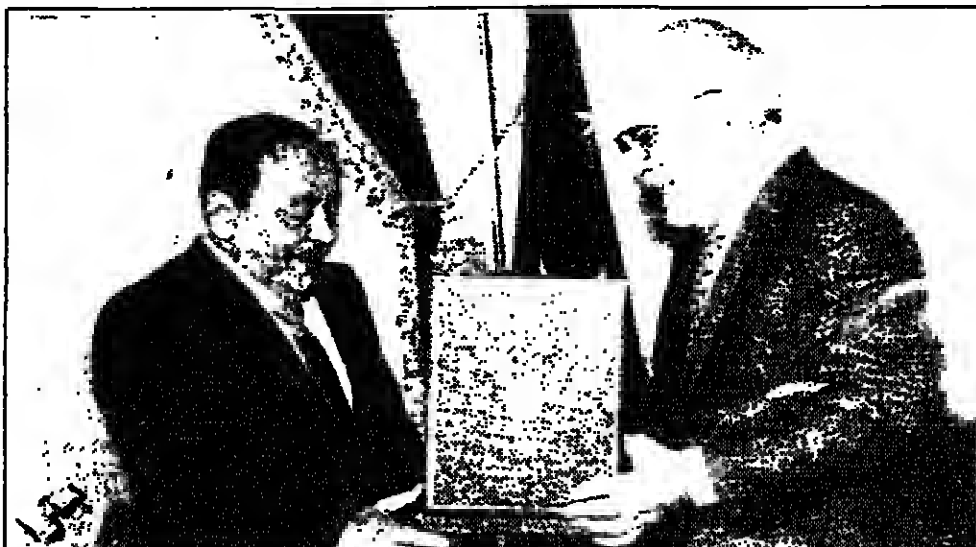
The two-day meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of the six GCC member states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

The GCC was perceived as sympathetic to the south, with the exception of Qatar which backed the northern government.

"Dialogue between the Yemenis is an internal affair of Yemen," the Yemeni statement said Sunday.

Southern Yemenis declared secession from the north in the early days of the Yemeni war. Southern leaders fled into exile after the end of the war, but President Ali Abdullah Saleh still insists on trying 16 of them for treason and war crimes.

Saudi Arabia and some other Gulf states, showed sympathy for the South during the conflict, although speculation of material backing was never confirmed. Since the end of the war, Saudi Arabia has repatriated nearly 600 southern soldiers and officers who had fled to the kingdom.



YEMENI ENVOY HONOURED: AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday conferred Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order on Yemeni Ambassador to Jordan Ali Abu Lahoum on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Jordan. Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Masri received Mr. Ali Lahoum, who is also dean of the diplomatic corps in Jordan, and thanked him for his efforts to strengthen Jordanian-Yemeni relations (Petra photo)

## Cabinet approves statute for Higher Authority for Purchases

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has endorsed a statute for the Higher Authority for Purchases referred to it by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, chairman of the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation.

A government statement said that the statute was based on His Majesty King Hussein's directives to Prince Hassan last month, asking that the economic and investment climate in Jordan be based on sound and clear ground to enable the Kingdom to enter a new era with solid steps and to safeguard its reputation and credibility at a time when the country is about to expand its links with world economic blocs.

The statement said economic and trade links with other states and blocs normally entail certain activities that require control and should therefore be governed by rules of conduct and values to fend off any suspicious or corrupt acts or cause any imbalance or neglect and prevent any profiteering or misconduct or misuse of office.

To avoid such situations, there is need for consolidating rules of conduct and sub-



jecting all actions to be accountable before the law, the statement added.

In order to achieve these criteria in conduct and to ensure the soundness of procedures connected with the public procurements and purchases, especially in international trade transactions, and in view of the diversity of legislations governing requirements for the various government offices, the overlapping of certain legislations and the failure of some of them to serve their purpose and meet the requirements of the modern age and handle

the rapid developments at the local and international fronts, it was found necessary to establish a general umbrella for purchases, it said.

It said that the Higher Authority for Purchases is deemed to be of urgent necessity to contribute to the development of those departments in charge of requirements, purchases and services for the state.

This authority, this statement said, would also control the performance of government offices and the conduct of their staff to ensure that they abide by the regulations and rules, would define defects, avoid any imbalances and prevent abuse of authority and improve and simplify procedures, taking care to ensure speed, fair dealings and less routine and bureaucracy.

The statement said that the council would ensure that sound procedures would be followed by all parties in any commercial transaction concerning purchases in such a manner that would prevent any illegal benefits from reaching any party and would lay down controls to safeguard public funds and guarantee public justice.

## PLO says it got only 10% of pledged funds

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) efforts to rebuild the new self-rule areas are hampered by Israel's slowness to hand over authority and the receipt of less than 10 per cent of promised foreign funds, a PLO official said here Sunday.

The Palestinians have received about \$65 million of the \$720 million promised for this year, said Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, deputy chairman of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

"The process is slow. Instead of months, it should take weeks or less," Mr. Kaddoumi told reporters during a PECDAR session which was partly to discuss preparations for an upcoming meeting of international donors.

"We try to expedite the process," although donors "have their own plans," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's economic advisor Said Hamud said earlier that PECDAR would set a timetable for development projects to be presented to donor countries.

Mr. Kaddoumi also accused Israel of "moving to the detriment of plans," adding "we have not yet received full empowerment in both Gaza and the West Bank."

Autonomy was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May, but there had been "delays in the withdrawal of Israeli forces," said Mr. Kaddoumi, who is also the head

of the PLO's political department.

And in the rest of the West Bank, only authority in education has been transferred to the PLO, he complained.

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said meanwhile elections in the self-rule areas had been delayed because the PLO was seeking to use them to win "signs of sovereignty," an Israeli official said.

Elections to an autonomous council were scheduled for July 13, then postponed until Oct. 15 following delays in launching autonomy, and are now planned for Dec. 5.

PECDAR began meeting here on Saturday at a session chaired by Mr. Arafat and continued discussions Sunday without him. PECDAR official Hassan Abu Libdeh said.

Mr. Arafat was meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the port city of Alexandria.

The officials discussed projects to set up a development bank and Palestinian monetary authority Saturday.

Mr. Abu Libdeh said the body aimed to "smooth up operations," deal with administrative and planning matters and discuss "some ideas for the future."

Mr. Kaddoumi denied there was any rift within the PLO's economic team even though he was chairing the meeting in the absence of PECDAR executive chief Ahmad Qureia.

(Continued on page 2)

## Policeman killed in Gaza row

GAZA (Agencies) — About 4,000 Palestinian mourners attended the Gaza Strip funeral of a policeman killed trying to break up a row between secret police and armed members of the Islamic Hamas movement, witnesses said.

A 22-year-old Palestinian plunged a large knife into the neck of an Israeli soldier at a bus stop in the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikva, police said.

The soldier was taken to hospital with "moderate" injuries while the aggressor was arrested.

Police sealed off the area, hunting for possible accomplices of the Palestinian, whose name was not released.

Israeli soldiers meanwhile shot dead a Palestinian and wounded another on Sunday at a roadblock in the occupied West Bank, security sources said.

The soldiers opened fire when the Palestinians van drove through the checkpoint near Ramallah without stopping, the sources said.

At the Gaza funeral, some held placards calling for action against the killers of Captain Yusri Al Hams, the first policeman killed in clashes with Palestinians since self-rule began in May.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, insisting it did not kill Hams, put out two statements within a few hours demanding the self-

(Continued on page 2)



## Sarid tells Golan settlers to be prepared to leave

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Jewish settlers in the Golan Heights should pack their bags and leave to allow peace with Syria, Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said Saturday.

"It is regrettable that the country's leaders have encouraged settlers to believe in the past that their presence on the plateau was permanent, but it was an illusion which would have evaporated sooner or later," Mr. Sarid said.

He told his Meretz party at the launch of a campaign for "territorial concessions" to Syria in exchange for peace. "Settlers, whose mission seemed to be of national importance to many of us at the time, must admit that it is 'coming to an end,'" he said.

Hundreds of Israelis on Saturday travelled to Gama, one of 31 Jewish settlements in the Golan Heights, to express support.

Settlers staging a hunger strike in protest at the Israeli government's readiness to cede land in return for peace.

Another 300 settlers of nearby El Rom went on strike Friday, following Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's offer of a "marginal" Israeli withdrawal over three years from the Golan

Heights, seized from Syria in 1967.

Mr. Sarid said the Meretz party, which is part of Israel's ruling coalition, had always been "convinced that the Golan was destined since 1967 to be used as a bargaining counter to obtain peace with Syria."

"Now that peace is within reach, settlers must have a sense of responsibility and realise that an accord with Syria comes before everything and that to obtain it, it will be necessary to give very far-reaching and painful land concessions."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel was ready to make concessions to Syria in exchange for security guarantees and that a settlement could be reached within the year, in an interview published on Saturday.

The hunger-striking Jewish settlers appealed to U.S. President Bill Clinton on Saturday.

Thirteen hunger strikers in a letter to Mr. Clinton sent to news agencies drew a parallel between an impending U.S. mission of Haiti and their struggle to hold on to the Golan Heights.

"In the name of true democratic principles, the United States, by your decision, is

going to invade Haiti... we call upon you to be consistent in your war against dictators, such as Syria, by strengthening democracies such as Israel."

It added: "We appeal to you Mr. President to stop putting pressure on Israel that may lead to dangerous concessions in the Golan Heights and to resist any effort to station U.S. troops on the Golan Heights."

Syria and its ally Lebanon are the only frontline Arab states still formally at war with Israel following Israel's treaty with Egypt in 1979 and interim accords with the Palestinians and Jordan.

Talks between are stalled over the Golan Heights. Syria demands total Israeli withdrawal. Israel has publicly said it could make a limited pullback but wants Syrian commitment to full ties.

But earlier this week, Israel welcomed a speech by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad as a "declaration of peace" aimed at preparing the Syrian public for a deal with the Jewish state. In that speech, Mr. Assad demanded a full Israeli withdrawal from the Heights while vowing to fulfil any commitments to peace.



Fayrouz

## Fayrouz — voice of pure gold among Beirut ruins

BEIRUT (AFP) — Forty-thousand people jumped to their feet Saturday to hail Lebanese diva Fayrouz as she gave her first concert in 19 years in the ruins of the war-shattered Lebanese capital.

"I wish time could stand still now with Fayrouz. I wish tomorrow would never come," said Faten Abu Antun, a 25-year-old who came to Beirut from the mountain town of Dbur Al Shweir northeast of the capital.

Sham Bitar, who travelled to Beirut from Damascus with her husband for the occasion, said as she was leaving Martyr's Square: "It was pure gold. I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Fayrouz, 60, a household name in the Arab world, refused to sing in her native country after civil war erupted there in 1975. The conflict would drag on for 15 years, leaving 200,000 dead and 300,000 injured.

Her return performance, accompanied by a 40-piece orchestra and a 16-member chorus, appeared to erase some of the deepest wounds.

She appeared in a white flowing robe on a stage in the shape of a sail boat before a sell-out crowd of 40,000 in what organisers billed as the largest event of its kind.

The open air concert was held in Martyr's Square — once the pulsating heart of the city and now reduced to rubble — four days before a ceremony to mark the start of the city centre's reconstruction.

Her audience included President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, government officials, foreign diplomats and French courtier Azzedine Alaoui, who said he had come especially to attend the mega-show.

But the singer's real fans were Lebanese of blemish stature: young, old, rich, poor, Muslims, Christians and former enemies who share a common passion for Fayrouz and nostalgia for Beirut.

"Look at them, it's as if they're pilgrims visiting a holy site," said Lebanese

Poet Paul Sbaul, pointing to the crowd as it began streaming into Martyr's Square three hours before the start of the concert.

"They didn't only come to hear Fayrouz but to rediscover each other through her," said Mr. Sbaul.

As Fayrouz broke into her first few songs, the officials seated in the front rows applauded discreetly while in the back dozens of youths clapped bands and danced the traditional dabkeh.

Dozens more flicked lighters and lit flashlights.

"It's the first time I've felt I want to cry and laugh at the same time," said a young woman as she swayed to the music.

"We can't see too well from here," added another who sat 250 metres from the stage. "But this is a night to remember."

Fayrouz opened her two-hour concert with a song entitled "We have found the light again, we have found freedom anew" and she ended it to thunderous applause with: "Tomorrow, I'll return to stand by your side."

Even Mr. Hariri, the billionaire premier whose nomination in October 1992 triggered optimism in the West for the rebirth of Lebanon, joined the enthusiasm and clapped loudly as they audience demanded an encore.

French Ambassador Jean-Pierre Laffont told AFP: "This was a site of deadly combat... but now a page has been turned."

"Beirut was wounded, it was martyred but now Beirut has been rediscovered," he added, paraphrasing Charles de Gaulle at the liberation of Paris from Nazi occupation 50 years ago.

Jan Gijss Schouten, chargé d'affaires at the Dutch embassy in Damascus, praised the organisers: "The logistics are mind boggling. They have done a wonderful job."

"It's historic event to see Beirut alive again and so many people together," he said.

## Kenya calls summit to seek peace in Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir is due to hold talks with neighbouring heads of state in Kenya on Monday in a renewed attempt to end the long-running civil war in southern Sudan.

A Kenyan government statement said General Bashir was due to arrive later on Sunday. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi and Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki are expected to arrive on Monday.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi will chair the talks under the auspices of the Inter-Government Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), which links the countries of the region.

On Saturday Mr. Moi held talks in Nairobi, northwest of Kenya, with Sudanese National Islamic Front leader Hassan Al Tourabi.

"Moi told Al Tourabi it was his wish that the next meeting of the Sudanese parties to the conflict would delve deep into the intricacies of the issue in a more serious manner than they have done hitherto," a senior presidential aide told Reuters.

The last round of talks between the Sudanese government and southern rebel groups collapsed in Nairobi two weeks ago.

The rebels said Khartoum refused to soften its insistence on Islamic Sharia law and continued to reject self-determination for the south.

The splintered rebels, mostly animists and Christians, have been fighting the northern government since 1983.

IGADD has been trying since last year to bring the opposition sides together.

A Kenyan official said at the weekend that Mr. Moi wanted to revive round-table negotiations where "we hope the sticky issues of self-determination and Sharia law can be resolved finally."

Mr. Moi had earlier told Sudanese leaders that his patience was running out because of an apparent lack of commitment to the search for peace from both the government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

He urged them to change radically their attitude to the issue.

Since the SPLA launched its war, hundreds of thousands of civilians have died of starvation or been killed in fighting.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran steps up fight against 'loose' women

TEHRAN (AFP) — Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati has ordered a crackdown on women violating strict Islamic dress codes as part of a campaign in Iran against Western cultural influences. Speaking to officials in charge of the fight against "social corruption," Mr. Besharati blamed existing "immorality" in Iran on the growing influence of Western culture. "I order that you crack down on the phenomenon of bad veil as an expression of decadent Western corruption," he said in a reference to women not covering themselves properly. Mr. Besharati, quoted by Jomhuri Islami, a daily close to Islamic hardliners, also called for measures to be stepped up against young men chasing schoolgirls, women riding with men on motorcycles "without respecting Islamic principles" and beggars.

South Africa sells arms to Lebanon

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa has sold Lebanon arms including AK-47 assault rifles and ammunition worth 2.4 million rand (\$700,000), a spokesman for South Africa's Armscor arms agency said on Sunday. "The weapons came from surplus defence stock," the spokesman said. He was commenting on a report in the Afrikaans language Rapport newspaper that a shipment of tens of thousands of AK-47s in 33 containers had left for Lebanon from Port Elizabeth on Aug. 25. The AK-47 is widely used in southern Africa. It was issued to guerrillas of the African National Congress during the movement's armed struggle against white-led apartheid government.

Pakistan ready to extradite three Egyptians

CAIRO (AFP) — Pakistan is ready to extradite three wanted Egyptian veterans of the Afghanistan war, Pakistani Interior Minister Nasserullah Bader said in an interview published Sunday. "Pakistan is ready to honour the conditions of the extradition treaty" signed with Egypt in July, Mr. Bader told the Arabic daily Al Hayat published in London. The minister said the three Egyptians, two of whom had adopted Pakistani citizenship, were being held in Peshawar in northwestern Pakistan. He did not explain the reason for their arrest. According to Al Hayat, the three were on a list of wanted Islamic militants which Cairo presented to Islamabad following the signing of the extradition treaty. Egypt's Interior Minister General Hassan Al Alfi said in August that around 30 wanted militants had been extradited to Egypt from a number of countries, which he did not identify.

U.N. troops disperse protesting Somalis

MOGADISHU (R) — Pakistani soldiers with the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) fired a smoke grenade to disperse a hostile crowd of Somalis outside the SWORD military base in Mogadishu on Saturday, a U.N. spokesman said. No casualties were reported. Somalia said the mob was shouting anti-U.N. slogans. Although no announcement has been made by the U.N., local reports say U.N. forces are about to evacuate the base. In another incident, armed Somalis set up a roadblock at the gate of Baidoa airport, central Somalia, protesting at the loss of jobs resulting from the recent pullout of U.N. forces from the area. Indian U.N. troops and Somali police dispersed the demonstrators and removed the roadblock. Two Somalis were arrested and handed to Somali police.

WFP to feed displaced Yemenis

DUBAI (R) — The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has said it plans to feed over 300,000 people who fled their homes in Yemen's civil war. "The WFP will supply urgently needed food aid for the next two months to more than 300,000 people left displaced and at least temporarily destitute by the civil war," Neji Frijl, U.N. spokesman in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, said in a statement sent late on Saturday. The two-month war between the Sanaa government and southern secessionists ended on July 7 after the south's self-declared capital of Aden fell to Sanaa's troops following weeks of siege and bombardment that badly damaged the city's vital services. "The situation in the southern part of Yemen is critical," the U.N. statement said.

## Kuwait cites history in defence of statehood

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, keen to assert its statehood against territorial claims by Iraq, says it may have an older history than previously thought.

Official historian Abdullah Al Ghunaim said he was researching documents that showed that the city state in the north of the Gulf could have been founded more than a century before the commonly accepted date of around 1750.

"Documents and records indicate that Kuwait existed almost 130 years earlier," Mr. Ghunaim, chairman of the Centre for Research and Studies, was quoted as saying in an interview with the English-language Kuwait Times.

"We are keen to gather more information from all sources available so we can build our study on it," said Mr. Ghunaim, whose institution is attached to the Kuwaiti cabinet.

Kuwait's history became a propaganda battleground in the crisis that followed Iraq's 1990 invasion, when Baghdad revived a longstanding claim that Kuwait has always belonged to Iraq.

Kuwaitis say their historical credentials may yet resur-

face as an issue because an unrepentant Iraq has so far declined to issue authoritative and explicit recognition of the emirate.

Kuwaiti tradition has it that Kuwait was first occupied in the mid-17th century by the bani Khalid tribe who migrated from their central Arabian homeland and built a small fortress or arsenal on the site of what is now Kuwait City.

Other central Arabian migrants from the Al Aniza tribal confederation followed in later decades, among them the Sabah family, who settled the four precincts and began to prosper. The Sabah's took over as formal rulers in about 1750.

Mr. Ghunaim was quoted as saying history's first reference to Kuwait was made around 1613 by Arab historian Ben Al Issa who had travelled the Gulf, he added: "We began our study based on this reference and we found that another Arab historian, Murtada Beu Alwan, also visited Kuwait in the year 1709 and described the country as a prosperous, well-organised community with markets and cheaper prices than adjacent countries."

"The Fateh movement demand the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) deal in the appropriate way with the hired hands who create incidents," said one banner carried by mourners.

Activists in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's Fateh group blamed Hamas for the killing.

Mohammad Dahlan, head of the secret police in Gaza, said the two wounded Hamas activists had stopped at a checkpoint but drove away shooting at the secret police. Hamas was killed in the resulting exchange of fire.

Hamas denied opening fire. It said Hamas was in the car with the Hamas activists, escorting them to a police station as a way of defusing the standoff between them and the secret police.

Hamas said the secret police fired on the car as it pulled away, fatally injuring Hamas and wounding the other two men.

"We put the full responsibility on the security apparatus," said Hamas, which is fighting the PLO's peace deal by attacking Israelis. The authorities buried Hamas apparently without having examined the bullets which killed him.

## Policeman killed in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

rule authority perform an autopsy to establish whose bullet killed him on Saturday night.

Police reinforced security around the town of Khan Younis, sealing off the hospital where two Hamas members were being treated for bullet wounds from the incident. Police arrested three Hamas activists who turned up at the hospital.

About 1,000 of Gaza's 8,000-strong security forces attended the funeral in the southern town of Rafah, including their commander, Major-General Naser Yousef.

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Activists in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's Fateh group blamed Hamas for the killing.

Mohammad Dahlan, head of the secret police in Gaza, said the two wounded Hamas activists had stopped at a checkpoint but drove away shooting at the secret police. Hamas was killed in the resulting exchange of fire.

Hamas denied opening fire. It said Hamas was in the car with the Hamas activists, escorting them to a police station as a way of defusing the standoff between them and the secret police.

Hamas said the secret police fired on the car as it pulled away, fatally injuring Hamas and wounding the other two men.

"We put the full responsibility on the security apparatus," said Hamas, which is fighting the PLO's peace deal by attacking Israelis. The authorities buried Hamas apparently without having examined the bullets which killed him.

## PLO says it got 10% of funds

(Continued from page 1)

He played down reports that Mr. Ouriea, a key architect of last year's PLO-Israeli peace accord, had boycotted the talks and had offered his resignation to Mr. Arafat.

"Ouriea has not resigned. He did not submit any official resignation and I asked Arafat today about that. Ouriea is still on and he has two deputies meeting here with us," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

Mr. Kaddoumi said Mr. Arafat earlier met the board for about four hours and "explained his views on how we can expedite the influx of the fund."

"Mr. Arafat will also try to urge President Hosni Mubarak to use his good offices in persuading donors to expedite the funds," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

Mr. Arafat later met Mr. Mubarak at a private rest house near Alexandria to discuss the funds and progress achieved so far in the Middle East peace process "in which Mubarak is playing a central role," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters after the meeting that Egypt was holding contacts with "concerned parties" to help the Palestinians set up their infrastructure.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Ph El Hercule
17:30	Beaunoir
18:00	Musique Sans Frontiers
18:30	News in French
18:45	The Weekly Sport Magazine
19:00	News in Hebrew
19:30	Black Beauty
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Home Fric
21:10	A Galactic Odyssey
22:00	News in English
22:30	Matrix
PRAYER TIMES	
05:59	Fajr
07:17	Sunrise/Duha
11:30	Dhuhr
15:00	Asr
17:43	Maghreb
19:01	Isha
CHURCHES	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 63843	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 834328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds generally moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Nidal As'ad	751672
Dr. Issam Al Asmar	892504
Dr. Arafat Ashhab	602507
Dr. Riq Abu Zinah	894295
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fordous pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637025
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	640465
Shneisani pharmacy	637660
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
RRID:	
Dr. Ali Al Shogairi	246140
Aquids pharmacy	(-)
Zakaria:	
Dr. Hisham Hrawi	682460
Khalil pharmacy	663417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
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<div>EMERGENCIES</div> <div>Food Control Centre 637111</div> <div>Civil Defence Department 661111</div>	<div>HOSPITALS</div> <div>AMMAN:</div> <div>Hussein Medical Centre 81391332</div>	<div>FOR THE TRAVELLER</div> <div>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL</div>	<div>ARRIVALS</div> <div>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</div> <div>07:15 ————— Sanaa (RJ)</div> <div>08:00 ————— Damascus (RJ)</div> <div>08:30 ————— Jeddah (RJ)</div> <div>09:15 ————— Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)</div> <div>09:15 ————— Riyadh (RJ)</div> <div>09:15 ————— Riyadh (add) (RJ)</div> <div>10:00 ————— Beirut (RJ)</div> <div>10:00 ————— New Delhi (RJ)</div> <div>15:45 ————— New York, Amsterdam (RJ)</div> <div>16:50 ————— Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>16:50 ————— Bangkok (RJ)</div> <div>16:50 ————— Caracas, Tunis (RJ)</div> <div>23:00 ————— Tunis (add) (RJ)</div> <div>23:45 ————— Moscow (RJ)</div> <div>Other Flights (Terminal 2)</div> <div>10:00 ————— Khanoum (SD)</div>



**THEATRE WORKSHOP:** Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday attends one of a series of workshops held by a British theatre company, the Right Size, with a team of Jordanian theatre professionals and students. Upon the request of Jordanian actors, the British Council, in cooperation with the Theatre-in-Education programme of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, invited two members of the Right Size group to Jordan for a second visit, to work with selected Jordanian actors on improvised story-telling using self-creation, mime, movement, Italian mask, music, and other physical comedy techniques, while stressing discipline and group work. The project will concentrate on using the workshop



techniques to develop performances, which will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre on Sept. 20 and 21. Queen Noor met the actors and dis-

cussed how they could use the new techniques in their professional life, in both teaching and acting. She expressed her hope

that they share their knowledge with their colleagues so that the workshop would have a broader impact (Photo by George Crystal)

## Media production company to lease facilities in financial rescue bid — general manager

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema Production plans to lease its studios and equipment in a move to rescue itself from financial problems in two to three years, according to its general manager, Jawada Maraqqeh.

Since the establishment of the shareholding company in 1983, of which the government and government-guided agencies own 52 per cent, it has accumulated debts of JD18 million. The lease, expected to be awarded to Sheikh Saleh Kamal in partnership with the Gulf Artistic Production Company (GAP), Dubai, will ease the burden of these debts, Mr. Maraqqeh said.

The deadline for submission of bids is today, as announced in an invitation printed in the local press last week.

Businessmen interested in the lease have complained the time was too short for serious competitors to bid. They suggest that a deal between the company and the Sheikh Saleh-GAP partnership had been agreed prior to the official announcement.

Mr. Maraqqeh refuted the insinuation. Interested parties could make an offer at any time, but extensive knowledge and experience

in the field are prerequisites to acceptance, he said.

In recent interviews, Mr. Maraqqeh and Dr. Fahed Faneq, head of an appointed management committee, said Sheikh Saleh-GAP were the only contenders.

Sheikh Saleh, a Saudi national who owns the Italian-based Arab Radio and Television Company, is one of the individual shareholders and owns 20 per cent of the original capital of the company.

Between 1983 and 1986, when the company was building its own premises, it used the JTV studios. The development of the studios and the enormity of the project was to create pan-Arab studios to replace those formerly used in Greece, Mr. Maraqqeh said.

An Austrian consortium was contracted to design and construct a building made of expensive stone from the West Bank. It houses two 600-square-metre studios, equipped by British firms, which supplied Japanese equipment, levying 26 per cent interest on the cost price, according to Tareq Masarweh, who served as general manager of the company between 1983-85.

The expense outweighed the JD5 million capital (equivalent to \$15 million in 1983) by an additional

JD5-5.5 million, which incurred soft loans from foreign banks, Messrs. Maraqqeh and Masarweh told the Jordan Times.

"It was a waste of money. Studios in Hollywood are built cheaper," said Mr. Masarweh.

It had the potential to be successful; from 1984-85 it produced a children's television workshop of 62 episodes, which earned the company \$1 million, Mr. Masarweh said. It also produced drama serials and sold them to Saudi Arabia, other Gulf states, Syria and Tunisia, he said.

"But the (overhead) costs were enormous," he added.

Mr. Maraqqeh said that "to have borrowed more than the original capital was a mistake, not corruption."

He explained that liquidity problems were exacerbated after the Gulf crisis which led to a strain in Jordan's relations with the Gulf states, the company's main market.

Other difficulties contributing to the company's insolvency were the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar in 1988 and the increased focus on outdoor film shooting rather than using studio facilities, he said.

Mr. Maraqqeh said there had been marketing problems as well. Some custom-

ers have difficulty paying in hard currencies; receipt of payment is often delayed and in some cases they do not buy the programmes after they have been produced, he explained.

He blamed the company's inability to develop, while smaller, private enterprises continue to do so, on its high running costs.

Mr. Maraqqeh would like to see the company's equipment updated, to face increasing competition from television production businesses outside Jordan. The equipment has already exceeded its life expectancy of 5-7 years and has been rendered obsolete by the new era of production technology. But this would require a large budget, which the company, currently unable to repay its debts, does not have, he said.

The lease is a stopgap measure which, in time, may be able to assist the company in attaining Arab World recognition as originally conceived.

Despite the lease, administration will remain in the hands of the management committee, Mr. Maraqqeh asserted.

The winners of the lease will be announced Monday and the sublet will begin on Oct. 1. Sources say that Sheikh Saleh is offering around JD 500,000 as lease payment, but Mr. Maraqqeh declined to reveal specifics.

## UNRWA employees to get raise — chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's more than 6,000 United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) employees will receive a JD10 increase on their monthly salaries starting November, according to newly-appointed UNRWA Director in Jordan Ele Saaf.

Mr. Saaf, who made the announcement at a meeting with Minister of State Mohammad Thweib Sunday, said that the raise was in conformity with a government decision to give a JD10 monthly increase to civil servants this year.

Despite financial constraints on the agency, UNRWA decided to go ahead with the raise, but it continues to face a recurrent deficit in its annual budget.

According to a draft report on UNRWA affairs to be submitted to the U.N. General Assembly by the agency's commissioner general, UNRWA's 1994-1995 operations budget is \$632.3 million, covering Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The agency announced last

month that it had started 1994 with a projected deficit of \$43 million in its regular and emergency budget. It had since been able to reduce the deficit to about \$30 million because of donations from several countries.

Mr. Thweib requested that UNRWA give special attention to the protection of the environment and cleanliness and hygiene in and around the refugee camps in Jordan.

In discussing the living conditions of camp residents, the minister told Mr. Saaf that the camps have witnessed

large population increases that resulted in additional pressure on the government-run health, educational and social services.

He urged the agency to increase the number of employees in cleaning services and health centres, and to extend the clinic hours to the afternoon instead of closing at 2:00 p.m.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Mr. Saaf and Mr. Thweib agreed to form a joint committee to plan projects for the development of the refugee camps.

**CALL FOR EMPLOYMENT CEILING:** Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday attends a meeting of Ministry of Planning department heads at which he called for a ceiling on the employment of additional staff at all ministries. Dr. Majali urged that a study of ministry staff requirements be made and stressed the importance of recruiting the most qualified individuals to fill department vacancies. Attending the regularly scheduled weekly meeting were Minister of Planning Hisham Khatib and Secretary General Nabil Ammari (Petra photo)



## HUDD to build housing for JEA staff — official

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) plans to build a housing estate for Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) employees and workers in Aqaba at the cost of JD3.5 million, in accordance with a contract signed in Amman Sunday.

HUDD Director General Yousef Hiyasat said the JEA will build 144 housing units in 24 buildings with a total area of 550 square metres each, according to the plan.

The project entails setting up 96 units of the "A" category and 48 units of the "B" category in these buildings, and each of the buildings will include six flats, said Mr. Hiyasat who signed the deal with JEA Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafeh.

The beneficiaries will be JEA staff, including clerical engineering and JEA Project workers, he said adding that the units will be occupied by the workers for as long as they are employed by the JEA.

According to Mr. Hiyasat, HUDD will also build facilities for social services and will connect the housing estate to the local infrastructure of roads, water, sewerage, telephone and electricity networks.

Under the contract,



Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafeh (second left) and Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Director General Yousef Hiyasat (third left) Sunday sign a contract for the construction of a housing estate for JEA staff in Aqaba (Petra photo)

for his part, Mr. Arafeh said that this was the first housing estate to be built by HUDD for JEA employees and he expressed appreciation of the level of cooperation with HUDD in benefiting the workers.

He added that the contracting firm, working under HUDD supervision, would be expected to complete the construction in 18 months.

Mr. Arafeh said the JEA intends to ensure appropriate housing for its employees in the Aqaba region, where the JEA is operating major power projects including the Aqaba Thermal Power Station and where a power linkage is connected to the Egyptian electricity grid through the Sinai.

JEA employs 2,200 workers at its projects in various parts of the country.

## JPA voices solidarity with Cuban people

Visiting team discusses effect of U.S. sanctions on island

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) Sunday voiced its solidarity with the people of Cuba in the face of U.S. sanctions imposed on the Caribbean island for the past 32 years.

JPA President Suleiman Qudah said the embargo on Cuba is worse than weapons of mass destruction and should be banned worldwide.

Speaking at a meeting with visiting representatives of Cuba's women's federation, Mariam Santana and Nancy Iglesias, Mr. Qudah said the Arabs know full well the devastating consequences of embargoes imposed on Iraq, and Libya, adding that embargoes aim at wrecking the morale of nations.

He said he recently visited Iraq and was deeply affected by the results of the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people.

The JPA understands the



Jordan Press Association President Suleiman Qudah Sunday meets with Mariam Santana and Nancy Iglesias, representing a Cuban women's federation. The two visiting women were accompanied by Mrs. Yacoub Zayadin (left)

situation in Cuba despite the hostile western media which aims at marring that country's image before the world, said Mr. Qudah.

For their part the two-member team referred to the several thousand Cuban emigrants and said that west-

ern media and U.S. propaganda were exploiting the migration and referring to the emigrants as "boat people."

It is regrettable that the world knows so little about the 11 million people of Cuba where illiteracy is non-existent and where everyone

enjoys free medical services, said the two women.

Cuba has been struggling for survival under extremely difficult circumstances and has succeeded in protecting its freedom and its dignity and independence against many odds in the face of the 32-year-old embargo, said the visiting team.

With the exception of the United States, Israel and Romania, the present embargo was rejected by the U.N. General Assembly in its 91st and 92nd sessions as illegal, they added.

Ms. Santana and Ms. Iglesias, who arrived in Amman Friday were on Sunday received by Taher Masri, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, who discussed Cuban-Jordanian parliamentary relations.

The Cuban team is due to leave for Havana today after a meeting with Secretary General of the Jordanian Communist Party Yacoub Zayadin.

## School stampede injures 18 students

AMMAN (Petra) — An outdoor electrical emergency Sunday created a panic at the Laila Al Ghabraiah School in south Marka resulting in the injury of 18 students.

An electrical contact caught a live cable and caused sparks and smoke outside the school.

In a panic, students and teachers stampeded out of the three-storey building.

The injured children were taken to Ashrafiah Hospital for first aid and treatment.

Two children were discharged, and nine others were listed in fair condition.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boulata entitled "Dests, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawehdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- \* Exhibition by artist Nadim Muhsin at the French Cultural Centre.
- \* Exhibition of stained glass and icons by Olla Racio at The Gallery at the Hotel Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. except on Friday) (Tel. 641361).
- \* Two exhibitions of abstract art respectively by Marwan 'Alan and a group of Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* Exhibition of paintings by Nasir Tamir at Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Saqra St. (Tel. 644451).
- \* "The Golden Crown Exhibition" of Jordanian national products at the Amman Auto Exhibition, Airport Road.
- \* Exhibition of handicrafts at Haya Cultural Centre (Tel. 604600).
- \* Exhibition of oil paintings by Rashad Salim at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).
- \* Exhibition of paintings by Syrian artist Wafiq Karishi at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- \* "The Dimes Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Royal Norwegian Embassy announces the opening of its Chancellery in Amman. The location is: Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle, Qais Bin Sa'ida Street, Villa 33. Opposite Hotel Inter-Continental. Opening hours: 09 a.m. - 3 p.m. Visa Section: 10-12 a.m. Closed: Friday & Saturday. Tel.: 644932-644933-644934

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- 05 Hotel/Restaurant Management
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- 59 Catering/Gourmet Cooking
- 23 Medical Office Assistant
- 51 Fashion Merchandising
- 28 Motorcycle Repair
- 52 Surveying & Mapping
- 22 Wildlife/Forestry Conservation
- 47 Animal Care Specialist
- 2608 Building Trades
- 106 General Business
- 18 Practical English
- 88 Small Engine Repair
- 50 Starting Your Own Business
- 08 Legal Assistant
- 69 Computer Programming in COBOL
- 48 Computer-Assisted Bookkeeping
- 42 Dressmaking & Design
- 87 TV/Video Repair
- 04 Auto Mechanics
- 12 Interior Decorating
- 18 Bookkeeping
- 06 Electrician
- 03 Child Day Care
- 38 Personal Computer Specialist
- 29 Police Sciences
- 10 Private Security Officer
- 09 Legal Secretary
- 55 Diesel Mechanics
- 94 Fitness & Nutrition
- 85 Drafting
- 2604 Architecture
- 260C Machine Shop
- 161 Engineering
- 41 Journalism/Short Story Writing
- 40 Photography
- 70 Computer-Assisted Small Business Management
- 79 Electronics Technician
- 91 Cartooning
- 27 Personal Computer Repair
- 26 Teacher Aide
- 30 Floral Design



# Dangerous gamble, high stakes as Russia backs Chechen rebels

MOSCOW (AFP) — Moscow has embarked on a perilous course by openly backing the armed opposition in breakaway Chechnya, where a major battle occurred this weekend, but the stakes are high as the outcome could set a precedent for other Russian republics trying to do it alone.

The tiny Caucasian republic, population 1.2 million, which declared independence three years ago is latest of a number of Russia's 89 constituent regions trying to quit the Russian Federation.

Some of these are rich in natural resources — Chechnya itself has a major oilfield — and want the freedom to profit to the maximum from their wealth.

Chechnya's President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who has the advantage of enormous distance from Moscow, has ignored all attempts by the Kremlin to bring him to heel.

Openly sending in troops, however, would revive the Chechens' instinctive dislike of Russians and could spark off a guerrilla war in a region whose warlike people had resisted conquest by Russia for almost three centuries until the middle of last century, observers said.

Moscow, as a result, has opted for internal destabilisation.

When the Provisional Council, an almost unknown opposition movement, announced on Aug. 2 that it had "removed" Mr. Dudayev from office, Moscow acknowledged it had given the group financial support.

Once in Chechnya, it is obvious that the opposition also receives arms and advisers from Moscow.

But the game is risky. Clashes in the past three weeks between opposition forces and troops loyal to Mr. Dudayev have failed to bear out the opposition's contention that it is powerful enough to "overthrow" the president "by military force."

And Moscow now is so committed to backing the opposition that if government forces prevailed, it would be seen as a Russian defeat.

If this happened, Moscow would have the choice of intervening militarily or admitting defeat, which would legitimise Chechnya's independence.

This, in turn, would encourage would-be rebels in other Russian regions and put paid to two years of patient effort by Russian President Boris Yeltsin — both through diplomacy and force — to smother secessionist aspirations which burgeoned in the heady days after the Soviet Union broke up into separate countries following an unsuccessful Moscow coup in August 1991.

However some analysts believe Moscow, by trumpeting its support for the rebels, has something else in mind.

The Russian government may be hoping Mr. Dudayev will agree to negotiate and then bring the republic back into the Russian fold as a face-saving measure.

Russian officials have denied talks are underway — or ever could be — with Chechnya's leader.

But on Friday a Chechen emissary arrived here and told a journalist he had come "to negotiate a treaty on a confederative basis which would preserve Chechen sovereignty."

Other analysts foresee a less peaceful scenario, in which Russia would let a civil war drag on until it degenerated into a guerrilla conflict because neither side was capable of winning.

Russian troops could then intervene officially to "reimpose order", probably with the support of at least some of the population.

Both of these last two options would offer Moscow the added advantage of eliminating the possibility that one of Mr. Yeltsin's personal enemies, former parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, might emerge as Chechnya's leader.

Mr. Khasbulatov appears increasingly likely to succeed Mr. Dudayev if the opposition wins.

Both options would also explain why Moscow's arms shipments to the rebels appear to be only dribbling through and timed to help the opposition in specific clashes rather than ensuring an overall victory.

On Saturday, Mr. Dudayev's forces failed to dislodge opposition forces in a major battle at Tolstoy-Yurt that left a number of people dead, Chechen government sources said.

The loyalist forces succeeded however in taking control of a key road some 15 kilometres north of the Chechen capital Grozny, according to a ministry source who asked not to be named.

The battle marked a steep escalation in the standoff between Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force general, and the Moscow-backed rebels.

## Mexican rebels declare 'red alert'

MEXICO CITY (R) — Armed Zapatista rebels have declared a state of "red alert" in southeastern Mexico after accusing the army of violating the terms of a January ceasefire, Mexican newspapers reported Saturday.

"Our troops are ready to resist the assault, and they have received orders to defend our territory to the bitter end," the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) said in a statement delivered to La Jornada and other newspapers.

The Zapatistas, who launched a New Year's Day rebellion in the troubled state of Chiapas to demand democracy and better treatment for Mexico's impoverished Maya Indians, are believed to have at least 2,000 fighters in Chiapas's jungle highlands.

The EZLN accused the armed forces in its statement of increasing the number of troops in the conflict zone to more than 50,000, expanding patrols toward Zapatista-held territory and resuming night aerial manoeuvres over Maya villages.

The Mexican Defence Ministry denied that it was building up its forces in the region. "The troop movements correspond to indispensable rebel operations," it said in a statement.

More than 150 people, and possibly as many as 500 by unofficial counts, were killed in Chiapas in the early days of the revolt before a ceasefire was called on Jan. 10.

But tensions are running high as landowners continue to clash with peasants demanding farmland. A rancher was injured Friday when some 40 indigenous peasants armed with sticks and stones overran his farm, according to the state newspaper El Nacional.

The Zapatistas, who took the name of legendary peasant champion Emiliano Zapata, said the government appeared to be bracing for a military solution to the nine-month conflict.

"The breach of the ceasefire by federal troops, and the subsequent unleashing of hostilities is part of a plan by the usurper Carlos Salinas de Gortari to create a situation that will allow him to remain in power," the statement said.

The Zapatistas have accused President Salinas, whose six-year term ends on Dec. 1, of stealing the 1988 presidential election.

They also say the opposition candidate of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, Amado Avendaño, was cheated out of victory in the gubernatorial election in Chiapas held last month by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

A Catholic organisation, the Mexican Episcopal Conference, said a committee of seven bishops will try to meet EZLN representatives next week in a bid to help resume peace talks that broke down in March.

## Taiwan plane pulling drone is shot down

TAIPEI (R) — A Taiwan Navy anti-aircraft missile hit a civilian plane instead of the target drone it was towing, killing all four aboard, a navy spokesman said Sunday.

Navy headquarters expressed its regret for this accident and extends its deep apologies to the families of the four crew members, an official statement said.

The Learjet-35, leased to the Navy by the private Golden Eagle Airlines, was towing a drone in the first public rehearsal Saturday for a military exercise when it was shot down by an air defence missile fired from a navy frigate, the spokesman said.

The plane, engulfed in fire and thick smoke, plunged into the sea before an audience of 3,000 guests at the rehearsal near eastern Taitung for the island's biggest military exercise for many years. The exercise is due to begin on Sept. 27 near Taitung.

The navy has launched an inquiry, the spokesman said. "Accidents are difficult to avoid but we never expected such a serious lesson," Navy Commander-in-Chief Kuo Tsung-Lian told state-run television.

"The plane was a long distance from the target so it is almost impossible to make such a mistake," an official of Golden Eagle said.

## Prince Charles honours Arnhem dead

ARNHEM, Netherlands (R) — Allied World War II veterans and their families, many weeping openly, attended an emotional service near this southeast Dutch town Sunday to hear Britain's Prince Charles pay tribute to their comrades who died in the Battle of Arnhem 50 years ago.

Dutch schoolchildren laid flowers on the graves at the allied cemetery, where the service was attended by 3,000 veterans and their families.

The service was the highlight of weekend events to commemorate the battle, portrayed in the film A Bridge Too Far, at which allied airborne forces fought valiantly but were defeated.

Under sunny skies, and then drizzle, Prince Charles, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and other officials laid wreaths under a stone cross at the head of the 1,755 white headstones set out in rows of low beds.

Prince Charles, colonel-in-chief of the British Parachute Regiment, paying tribute to those who died in the battle, said: "The story of those 10 days has passed into the history books. It was one of heroism and self-sacrifice that will never be forgotten."

Some 10,000 airborne troops set out on Sept. 17, 1944 to capture a vital bridge over the River Rhine, aiming to let allied armies smash through to Germany and thus end World War II by Christmas.

The mission ended in tragedy, with only 2,400 soldiers returning. The rest were killed or captured.

"We must also remember and pay homage to the immense bravery and sacrifice of the people of Arnhem... who paid such a terrible price for their courage."

"Pray God that we shall be worthy of the incredible sacrifices that were made 50 years ago," Prince Charles said.

One of the ministers leading the prayers, his voice trembling with emotion, prayed for the men "whose bodies lie in this hallowed foreign field."

He called for "a moment of silence for those we knew as comrades in arms," and paid tribute to what he called the Arnhem '44 Spirit. "For those of us who were here in 1944, this day and this service are peak moments in our lives."

Veteran Pat Stott, 72, said: "It was very emotional. I've got a lot of pals buried here. There were a lot of moist eyes. It melts your heart to see the children laying flowers at the graves."

"This is the only reason I came here," said Jim Crabtree, who fought at the bridge at Arnhem.

Corporal Sean Harris, 31, who jumped in Saturday's commemorative 700-parachute drop, said it was an honour to be in the parachute regiment's ceremonial guard at the service. "It's an important day for the regiment to remember all the old guys buried here. The guys fight to get on the guard and to jump. It's a very emotional time."

In the cemetery in the middle of the Dutch countryside the graves, encircled by trees, bore the names of glider pilots, paratroopers and other airborne forces, mostly in their early twenties.

Some graves bore a personal family message. Others, marked simply: "A soldier of the 1939-45 war, known unto God," were planted with a single red growing rose.

"It was a defeat but we put up a pretty good fight," Major Max Houghton told Reuters in an interview. "We're a young regiment and it's our most famous battle honour. We always look back on it as an example of courage and endurance."

But a plan for 60 veteran survivors of the battle, now in their 70's and 80's, to relive that fateful day by jumping alongside the regiment's young soldiers was called off due to the high winds and fears for their safety.

Many of the veterans, from Britain, Commonwealth countries, Poland and France, had trained for up to two years for the commemorative parachute drop and all said they were deeply disappointed their big day was called off.

Several said they were still keen to go. But others accepted the military's decision to call it off. "I wouldn't have cared for a jump in this weather," veteran Gus Woods, 72, said.

"Arnhem made the reputation of the parachute regiment in the British army," said Colonel David Parker. "It showed sheer guts and determination."

## Tajik government rebels sign truce

NICOSIA (R) — Government of the former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan and rebel leaders signed an agreement in Tehran Sunday to stop fighting in the run-up to presidential elections in November, Iran's official news agency (IRNA) said.

It said the ceasefire would go into effect once U.N. officials are deployed on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, where the still-active rebel forces and tens of thousands of civilians have taken refuge.

Opposition forces, many of them Islamists with whom Iran has sympathy, lost power to Communists after a bloody clan war in 1992. Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States back the government forces, and Russia has 25,000 troops in Tajikistan.

The agreement, reached Saturday in the Iranian capital, appeared designed to allow the opposition take part in the Nov. 6 presidential elections and a referendum on a new constitution while setting the stage for a more permanent peace.

Tajikistan is one of the poorest former Soviet Muslim republics.

IRNA quoted a U.N. news release as praising the constructive spirit which allowed an agreement to be signed "on a temporary ceasefire and cessation of other hostilities until a referendum on a new constitution and presidential election."

## IAEA holds meeting amid N. Korea hopes

VIENNA (R) — The United Nations nuclear safeguards agency holds its annual conference this week amid hopes of a breakthrough over North Korea's nuclear programme and growing concern over plutonium smuggling.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conference opens Monday with U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and ministers from 14 other countries, including Japan, due to address delegates from 120 member states.

For the first time in two years, North Korea was unlikely to dominate the five-day meeting, as high-level talks between Pyongyang and Washington on the secretive Communist country's nuclear programme were scheduled to begin Friday in Geneva.

The IAEA, the Vienna-based nuclear arm of the United Nations, has been careful to avoid comment on the series of preliminary talks between U.S. and North Korean officials in Berlin and Pyongyang last week.

But one agency official said that whatever the outcome of the talks, the vexed issue of North Korea's missing plutonium would have to be broached at some point in the future.

The IAEA suspects North Korea has hidden plutonium from its inspectors.

"We are perfectly convinced they have got more (plutonium) but we can't prove it," one official said.

IAEA Director General Hans Blix was expected to give conference delegates an overview of the North Korea issue and Pyongyang's reluctance to allow full inspections of its nuclear sites over the past year.

But the conference was unlikely to pass any tough-worried resolutions to avoid ruffling feathers before the Geneva talks.

Mr. Blix will also address growing concerns over recent cases of plutonium and uranium smuggling. Police in Germany have recently seized four consignments of radioactive material and another was intercepted in Bulgaria last week.

Germany, which currently holds the presidency of the European Union, asked for the issue to be raised.

"There will probably be some form of resolution inviting the director general to convene a group of experts... to determine what the agency can do in this field," an IAEA official said.

## U.N.'s annual diplomatic bazaar opens on Sept. 20

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The annual diplomatic bazaar known as the U.N. General Assembly opens Tuesday, almost as important as a meeting place as for the decisions it takes.

President Bill Clinton, now deeply involved in a U.N.-authorised operation to restore democracy to Haiti, will address the U.N. body on Sept. 26.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, grappling with peacekeeping problems of his own in parts of the former Soviet Union, speaks the same day.

They will be among the first to take part in the Assembly's three-week general debate, when government heads and foreign ministers deliver speeches closely scanned for clues to future policy.

Pope John Paul II, who last addressed the United Nations in 1979, returns to the blue and gold Assembly hall on Oct. 21, during a visit to the United States.

With more than 70,000 U.N. troops and observers deployed in 16 trouble spots, from Yugoslavia to Somalia and from Rwanda to Cyprus, the problems of peacekeeping will be highlighted in many of the speeches.

But assembly involvement in these operations is largely confined to voting the necessary funds. The 15-member Security Council, which meets almost daily, is in charge of matters affecting international peace and security.

The 184-nation Assembly has increasingly been relegated to the status of a town meeting, sounding out opinion on a variety of topics, trying to fashion a consensus where possible, and helping to set long-term goals.

With more than triple the membership of 31 at the organisation's founding in 1945, the assembly has neither the authority nor the ability to deal promptly with issues of war and peace.

One of its key functions is to provide the occasion for the biggest annual gathering of top diplomats, enabling foreign ministers from all over the world to meet their counterparts.

Instead of travelling hundreds of thousands of miles to conduct business, they merely ride an elevator to another hotel floor, take a short drive to a nearby restaurant, or repair to a discreet corner of the U.N. complex, accompanied by the inevitable phalanx of security guards.

Apart from speeches of major interest, the Assembly's proceedings often serve as a background while diplomacy is conducted elsewhere.

One of the Assembly's first actions will be to appoint the foreign minister of the Ivory Coast, Amara Essy, as its president. The post rotates annually among the U.N.'s five main regional groups and this year is Africa's turn.

Mr. Essy, 49, served as his country's U.N. representative from 1981 to 1990 and will succeed Ambassador Samuel Insanally of Guyana in the prestige-filled post of president.

After spending decades battling South Africa and its apartheid system, the assembly now finds this topic stripped from its agenda.

The installation last May of a non-racial government in Pretoria was followed in June by the restoration of South Africa's Assembly seat after a 20-year suspension.

While Middle East issues still loom large on the 150-item agenda, the United Nations is involved only on the periphery of negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours, where Washington serves as the main mediator.

As during the past two Assembly sessions, a large majority is again likely to be mustered in favour of ending the three-decade-old United States economic embargo of Cuba.

The two countries held direct talks earlier this month to end the flood of Cuban migrants fleeing to Florida but Washington has so far refused to discuss their longstanding political and ideological differences.

A renewed attempt to raise the question of a U.N. seat for Taiwan will, like last year, almost certainly be squashed in the Assembly's steering committee and fail even to be inscribed on the agenda.

Taiwan was ousted from the world body in 1971 when the Assembly awarded China's seat to Beijing.

Later in the session, the Assembly is expected to elect Germany, Italy, Honduras, Indonesia and Botswana to two-year terms on the security Council, beginning Jan. 1, 1995.

A committee which has been working on enlarging the 15-nation Council recently agreed only that it should expand, but without deciding how many new members should be added or whether any should receive permanent seats.

The committee has gone back to the drawing board and will report back in about a year's time.

This dashed hopes, especially by Germany and Japan, of gaining permanent berths on the U.N.'s most prestigious body by the time the organisation celebrates its 50th anniversary during 1995.

## Thousands march on Washington to oppose park

WASHINGTON (R) — Thousands of people opposing a theme park to be built on the historic battlefields of Virginia marched on Washington Saturday to raise national awareness of their fight. Close to 3,000 opponents, including activists Ralph Nader, came from as far away as Florida, California and New York and as close as various counties in Virginia to have their say about Disney's America. Disney's America is the Walt Disney Co's plan for a 400-acre (162 hectare) theme park recreating American history it hopes to establish on national battlefield park in Manassas, Virginia. Chanting "hey hey, ho ho, Disney's got to go," those opposing the plan marched from the Washington Monument to the Capitol, stopping briefly in front of the White House. Ralph Nader, a consumer advocate and founder of the non-profit watchdog organisation Public Citizen, encouraged the opponents to keep up their fight. The activist stressed Disney's "philosophy of becoming its own private government," and cited the ready creek district Disney created in Orlando around Disney World, which has its own tax assessing powers and private police force. "If it's not stopped, Disney will be a model for other corporations," Mr. Nader warned.

## Second crew of biosphere 2 emerges

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Seven people moved out of the sealed Biosphere 2 ecological laboratory after a six-month stay, severing the project's last ties with a discredited management team. The conclusion of their stay was a milestone in project backer Ed Bass' efforts to put aside Biosphere's image as a blend of fuzzy science and new age philosophy and legitimise the glass dome as a research tool accepted by mainstream scientists. "I think this mission will become known as the shakeup cruise," said crew Captain John Druit of England. The project's first two-year mission, which ended last Sept. 26, was known as the shakedown cruise. This time, Mr. Druit said, "we've shaken the Biosphere from top to bottom and all the loose ends have fallen out." Biosphere's new administration has created a research consortium with scientists from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. A team of top scientific consultants has begun writing a series of papers to be the basis of a new scientific research plan. One problem Biosphere 2 is particularly well-suited to study is the effect that rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide will have on plants over the next century, said geology Professor Wallace Broecker of Lamont-Doherty. The crew members all appeared healthy and well-fed, in contrast to the haggard, gaunt appearance of the first crew when they left the domed, glass-and-steel structure 25 miles (40-kms) northeast of Tucson.

## Tourists hurt in Kenya hot-air balloon crash

NAIROBI (R) — A hot-air balloon carrying foreign tourists over Kenya's Masai Mara Game Reserve crashed, injuring four passengers and their American pilot, witnesses said Saturday. The balloon apparently encountered unexpected turbulence which caused it to lose height and crash. A Nairobi hospital spokesman said the pilot and a Swiss woman tourist had been admitted for treatment. Two Japanese tourists were treated for slight injuries and discharged. Another Swiss received first-aid treatment after the crash. Several hot-air balloons operate regular game-viewing flights for tourists in the Masai Mara Reserve near the Kenya-Tanzania border.

## Napoleon's bureau sold in Zurich

ZURICH, Switzerland (AFP) — A bureau once owned by Napoleon Bonaparte's mother has been sold at a Swiss auction for 201,600 Swiss francs (about \$160,000) to a foreign buyer, the Swiss gallery Koller announced Saturday. The piece of furniture dates to the end of the 18th century.



Heather Whitestone (right), Miss Alabama, is crowned Miss America by outgoing Miss America, Kimberly Aiken in Atlantic City. Whitestone, who is deaf, will be the first Miss America with a disability (AFP photo)

## Deaf dancer crowned Miss America

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (Agencies) — A deaf dancer from Alabama won the 68th annual Miss America pageant Saturday, becoming the first woman with a disability to win the crown.

Heather Whitestone, 21, was the only contestant to win two preliminary competitions, in the swimsuit and talent categories.

Whitestone was born with hearing but lost it after a reaction to a diphtheria-tetanus shot when she was 18 months old.

She seemed not to realise she'd won when the first runner-up was announced. Then she started to cry and ducked her head to receive the crown from the outgoing Miss America, Kimberly Aiken.

As she returned to the stage after walking down the runway, she signed, "I love you."

"Her winning the Miss America competition will give inspiration to deaf children that they can also fulfill their dreams of who they want to be, whether it be Miss America or a lawyer or a teacher," said Sherry Dubon, a spokeswoman for Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the world's only liberal arts university for the deaf.

Ms. Whitestone enchanted the judges with her talent routine, a 2 1/2-minute ballet performed to the song, Via Dolorosa. Although she can't hear the music, she counts beats in her head, and synchronises her dance moves to reflect changes in pitch — for example, a leap to coincide with a crescendo.

When she performed in preliminary competition, the crowd in the Atlantic City Convention Centre gave her three thunderous ovations before she was finished and another at the end. The same thing happened Saturday.

She also won a swimsuit preliminary, becoming the 28th woman in pageant history to win two preliminary events. Fourteen of them have gone on to win the crown.

An accounting major at Jacksonville State University, Ms. Whitestone aspires to becoming a chartered accountant and a dance teacher.

Model Cheryl Tiegs, Olympic speed skater Dan Jansen and pianist Michael Feinstein headed the panel of celebrity judges chosen to crown one of 50 contestants in the nationally televised ceremony.

For the first time, contestants in the swimsuit competition were allowed to go barefoot rather than walk down the runway in high heels.

Pageant President Leonard Horn said the heels were eliminated in favour of a production number in which contestants will pose on a simulated beach, which he called a more natural setting.

The pageant was not without its detractors. American Indians were upset over the use of an Indian burial scaffold for a dance routine by Miss South Dakota Kristi Lynn Bauer in the talent competition. They called it sacrilegious but she resisted calls to drop the routine. Fewer than 10 people turned out for a much-publicised protest Thursday.

The pageant also was dogged by a threat of a strike by about 10,000 hotel workers. The pageant began in 1921 and has been held every year since, with the exception of 1928-1932 and 1935.

President Bill Clinton Saturday took time out from a briefing about plans for invading Haiti to extend best wishes to an admiral's daughter who won the swimsuit competition in the Miss America pageant.

Callen Johnson, 23, who is Miss Virginia, won the swimsuit competition Tuesday night and was pictured in her winning form on the front page of the Washington Post style section Saturday.

She is the daughter of Rear Admiral Jay Johnson, who is on board the command ship Momot Whitney off the coast of Haiti. He and other invasion commanders talked to Mr. Clinton by way of a video-teleconference link with the Pentagon.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said some of the other admirals were ribbing Johnson about his daughter and that "the president wished his daughter well."

## Zaire wants moved from

French soldiers... Zaire wants moved from... (The text in this column is partially obscured and difficult to read, but appears to be related to international news or conflict in Zaire.)

## Hong Kong vote in first test of P...

Hong Kong... in first test of P... (The text in this column is partially obscured and difficult to read, but appears to be related to news about Hong Kong.)





French soldiers load the bags of some of the 170 French troops returning to France at the eastern Zairean airport of Goma. About 280 of the 500 French troops based in Goma since the humanitarian Operation Turquoise ended remain, and they should be progressively pulled out by the end of September (AFP photo)

## Zaire wants Rwandan refugees moved from frontier camps

KIGALI (R) — Zaire, trying to cope with an estimated one million Rwandan refugees camped inside its borders, has asked for U.N. help to move some away from the frontier, a senior U.N. official said Sunday.

Ambassador Shaharyar Khan, the U.N. special representative to Rwanda, told reporters the Zairean authorities had requested help to move tens of thousands of refugees to a camp 150 kilometres away from the frontier.

Another U.N. official said the proposal was aimed at army and militias of the ousted Rwanda government, who are accused of terrorising the estimated one million refugees still in Zaire.

"Zaire has made it clear that it wants to separate the defeated army from the rest of the refugees," said the second U.N. official, who asked not to be named.

"If they are moved, then the ordinary peasants can decide freely whether they want to go home or not."

A tidal wave of refugees poured into the Zairean border town of Goma in July following the defeat of the former government by the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

Aid agencies estimate 28,000 troops of the defeated Rwandan army crossed with the other refugees. Some were disarmed but many retained and hid weapons.

In addition to threatening Rwandans against returning to their home country, there have been reports that some former soldiers also are planning guerrilla attacks into Rwanda.

Over the past fortnight, the U.N. has said it was imperative to end the former army's rule of terror so the peasants could return to their homes and farms before the coming rainy season.

Mr. Khan said the decision on whom should be moved would be made by a Joint Task Force consisting of the U.N., their aid agencies and Zaire which would meet in the next few days.

Zaire said earlier this month it wanted the Rwandan refugees on its territory to leave by the end of the month and promised to stop Hutu militiamen terrorising refugees into staying.

Diplomats in Kigali, however, said it could be difficult to move the defeated army from its present power base. There are not enough U.N. troops to consider moving them into the camps to disarm the Rwandans.

If the defeated Rwandan soldiers are to be moved, Mr. Khan said, they would have to be treated as civilians so

the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) could transport them if necessary.

"The conversion would be optical not real," Mr. Khan said. "The army would be put in civilian dress because constitutionally UNHCR and ICRC cannot provide aid to people in uniform."

The Joint Task Force would report to the U.N. within a fortnight on sites for the new camps, the cost of the operation, and on numbers to be moved.

The international community would be asked to finance the transfer because Zaire has neither the money nor the logistics for such an operation.

Mr. Khan said Zaire had also asked that senior officials of the ousted Rwandan government be moved from Goma.

"Zaire does not want to be accused (by the new Rwandan government) of harbouring people who are fomenting revolution," he said.

Mr. Khan could not say which other country might accept the leaders of a regime which has been accused of genocide.

Meanwhile, Rwandan Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu has appointed Jean-Baptiste Nduwungoma as his information minister, Rwanda Radio reported.

Mr. Twagiramungu announced the appointment at a meeting of the council of ministers, which Saturday discussed the setting-up of a parliament.

The government asked the various political formations to prepare to present their candidates, the radio said.

No parliament has functioned in Rwanda since the April assassination of Hutu President Juvénal Habyarimana that spurred ethnic bloodletting which killed hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsis.

Twelve-year-old Rwandan refugee Philippe Miribo (centre) leaves the eastern Zairean airport of Goma for a Parisian hospital with 170 French troops returning to France. Miribo was badly injured while picking up a grenade that killed his brother, on a Goma street. The weapon cut off his left hand and his face to pieces. The surgery unit of the French military hospital at the airport saved his life, reshaped his face and saved one of his eyes (AFP photo)

Gen. Grachev told NTV the resettlement would begin in the coming days and that Georgia would withdraw its military equipment from the area. The return had been due to start last Wednesday.

It was the first major breakthrough in the conflict since Abkhaz rebels drove Georgian forces from the region a year ago.

Mr. Grachev was sent to the region earlier this week to try to defuse a crisis over the proposed return of the refugees.

The Abkhaz parliament denounced the Russian peacekeeping force, stationed on the border between Georgia and Abkhazia, over its plans to allow thousands of Georgians back into the southern Abkhaz district of Gali.

Some 250,000 ethnic Georgians were forced out of Abkhazia by separatists backed unofficially by some Russian army officers.

The agreement on resettling the refugees came just a day after the unexpected meeting between Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr. Ardzinba.

A year ago, former Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze was forced to flee Abkhazia under fire in a military aircraft after the region fell.

South African leaders to discuss Zulu split

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President Nelson Mandela will hold talks Monday with two of South Africa's most influential Zulu leaders in a bid to defuse growing tensions in the tribal region.

A spokesman for Mr. Mandela said Sunday he would meet Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, at the king's palace in Nongoma in the KwaZulu-Natal region.

"(They) will meet to exchange views and clear the confusion and tension surrounding the Shaka Day celebration," the spokesman said.

"The three leaders are keen to ensure this day is celebrated with the dignity befitting King Shaka, a national hero who is revered beyond the borders of any single province."

"They are confident that this matter will be resolved in a manner that will allow the day to be celebrated with the integrity it deserves," the spokesman said.

Shaka Day, to be marked next Saturday, commemorates the 19th century warrior king regarded as the founder of the Zulu tribe, which today numbers about nine million people and is South Africa's biggest ethnic group.

A row erupted last month over an invitation to the event which King Zwelithini was reported to have sent to

from Bosnia and will then have to commit their own troops under the worst possible circumstances as a result.

If this happens, U.S. President Bill Clinton will face another difficult choice. His plan to invade Haiti has been unpopular in Congress and lacks public support.

To prevent further damage to his credibility at home, Mr. Clinton could obviously refuse to commit U.S. troops to aid a withdrawal from Bosnia — an operation that would be bloodier and far more difficult than the invasion of Haiti.

But diplomats said he would then be accused by key NATO allies like France and Britain of abandoning them to their fate, causing serious damage to trans-Atlantic relations already strained by differences over how to end the war in Bosnia.

Until now, Washington has said it would deploy ground troops in Bosnia only as part of a NATO force to police a peace deal agreed by all the warring parties.

Wary of greater involvement in peacekeeping following a disaster in Somalia, the United States would prefer to

offer only air support to any future U.N. withdrawal from Bosnia, using warplanes already patrolling the skies there.

But U.N. and NATO military officials say that would not be enough if the peacekeepers run into serious problems and the United States has reluctantly approved the start of NATO planning for an alliance ground force in case it is needed.

## Bosnian Serbs expel hundreds of Muslims

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs, defiant in the face of further isolation, expelled hundreds of Muslims from Serb-held territory Sunday and continued blocking water and power supplies to the capital Sarajevo.

Bosnian Muslim civilians driven from their homes in the Bijeljina region of north-east Bosnia in the latest wave of Serb "ethnic cleansing" crossed front lines to government-held land, the International Committee of the Red Cross and U.N. relief officials said.

The refugees told aid workers some 1,700 people had been forced out of Janja, 10 kilometres south of Bijeljina, according to Margerite Prins, a representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"We don't have that much information at the moment. But we think about 1,000 people have come across so far," Ms. Prins said in Muslim-held Tuzla.

"We are expecting 1,700 before the day is out, based on what those people crossing have told us."

The Serbs had to walk across front lines to safety in the Tuzla area, and some had to be taken to hospital for treatment for exhaustion.

The latest expulsions brought to more than 7,000 the number of Muslim driven from their homes in Bosnia by Serb forces since mid-July.

Sunday's influx of refugees came a day after about 700 Muslims, mostly women, children and the elderly, fled Serb-held Banja Luka, the United Nations said.

The U.N. Security Council and international human rights organisations have condemned the recent Serb campaign of ethnic cleansing, but

appear powerless to stop it.

Bosnian Serbs showed no signs of easing a blockade of utilities to Sarajevo, where people have been forced to carry water from natural springs and tank trucks.

The Bosnian capital has been without electricity, water and gas since Thursday, when Serb forces surrounding the city cut off supplies in a move reminiscent of the darkest days of the city's siege.

"There's no doubt now this is being condoned at the highest levels by Bosnian Serb officials," a U.N. source, who asked not to be named, said Sunday.

U.N. peacekeeping officials were still trying to persuade the Serbs to relent, but talks with Serb leaders Saturday proved unsuccessful.

The embattled city's hospitals bore the brunt of the utilities cuts.

"We have no water or electricity and we are running the generator for emergency cases only in the surgery theatre," said Dr. Meldiana Omerbegovic, a surgeon at the Kosevo Hospital.

Serbs control the low of gas and electricity to Sarajevo and road access. Water cannot be pumped without electric power.

The latest Serb move has prompted fears they are retaliating against U.N. plans to take tougher measures against them for rejecting the latest international peace plan.

The big power "contact group" for Bosnia — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — asked the Security Council Friday to tighten sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs to try to force them to negotiate.

South African leaders to discuss Zulu split

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President Nelson Mandela will hold talks Monday with two of South Africa's most influential Zulu leaders in a bid to defuse growing tensions in the tribal region.

A spokesman for Mr. Mandela said Sunday he would meet Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, at the king's palace in Nongoma in the KwaZulu-Natal region.

Mr. Mandela, who serves as home affairs minister in the government of national unity, waged a bitter campaign against Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) in the run-up to the country's first all-race elections last April.

About 15,000 people were killed in violence fuelled largely by ANC-Inkatha rivalry in the last decade.

The controversy over the Shaka Day celebration was among several incidents in recent months signalling a split between Mr. Buthelezi and the king.

Mr. Buthelezi, 65, has for many years maintained close links with the king in what political analysts saw as a strategy to gain the support of Zulu royalists.

Last Saturday Mr. Buthelezi failed for the first time in a decade to attend an important traditional Zulu ceremony the Reed Dance, at the king's residence.

Senior members of the ANC, National Health Minister Nkosizana Zuma and her husband Jacob, a minister in the regional administration, shared the platform with the king and Inkatha provincial Premier Frank Mdlalose.

Italy's Bossi renews attacks on Berlusconi

ROME (R) — The appointment of a new group of programme directors at state broadcaster RAI has undermined the fragile relationship between Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and his unpredictable Northern League allies.

"It's been a bad day for the League. The League has suffered a heavy blow. From today Berlusconi has in fact six television channels," fiery Northern League leader Umberto Bossi told a rally Saturday night.

Media magnate Berlusconi's Fininvest holding owns three commercial television channels which are the main rivals to the RAI's own three channels.

Mr. Berlusconi swept to power in a general election last March at the head of a Freedom Alliance in which his own Forza Italia (Go Italy) Party, the neo-fascist-led National Alliance and the League were the main partners.

The relationship between Mr. Bossi and Mr. Berlusconi has been stormy, with the Northern League leader mounting a series of verbal attacks on the prime minister who took office in May.

Mr. Bossi told Saturday night's rally that the League

would continue to support the government but press ahead with plans to introduce anti-trust legislation in the sphere of the media.

The daily newspaper La Stampa wrote Sunday that Italy was entering a new political phase which seemed likely to lead to early elections next spring.

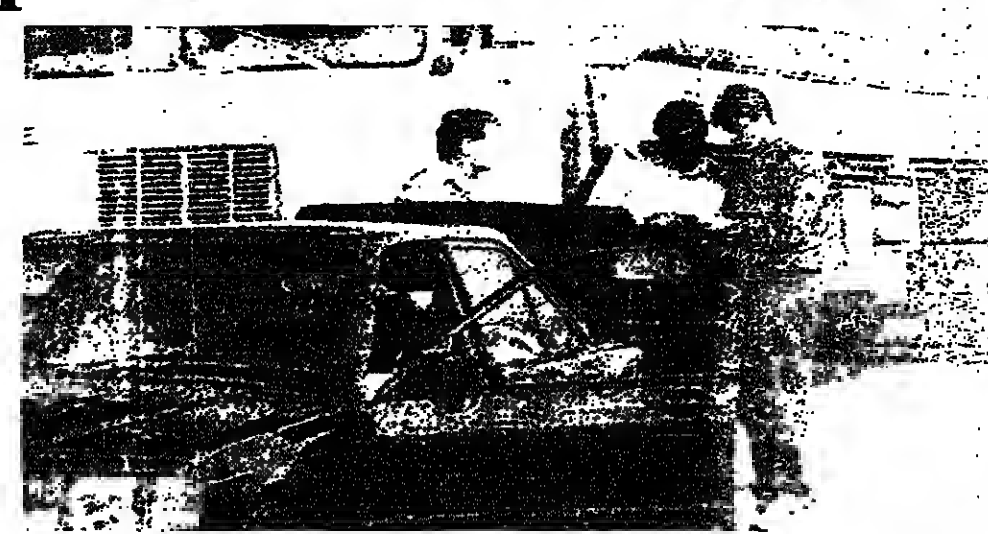
Mr. Bossi created a storm last week when he accused Berlusconi of secretly plotting snap elections, an accusation which the prime minister dismissed out of hand.

The latest bone of contention is Saturday's appointment of editors for the state radio and television network, which split the five-member RAI board, two of whom reportedly voted against the nominations.

Mr. Bossi accused Mr. Berlusconi of reverting to old-style politics and denying the League any representation in the RAI.

"Berlusconi and his friends came to an agreement, they gave the Communists the third (television) channel, so we find ourselves with a regime that wants to control everyone and everything," the Northern League leader said.

Under the old order Italian politics, which ended until a corruption scandal swept many players from the scene, top public sector executives were carved up between established political parties.



A customs officer of ramp Yugoslavia (centre) checks the papers of a driver and the trunk of a car at the Yugoslav border crossing point on the Bosnian border. The international civilian monitors have not been deployed on the borders yet (AFP photo)

"I have a responsibility. I don't want to needlessly endanger the peacekeepers' lives."

Mr. Leotard had been asked about a split between U.N. and NATO commanders over the issue of new air attacks, for which NATO wants more support after increased Serb attacks on so-called "safe areas" in Bosnia and in heavy weapons exclusion zones.

Mr. Leotard said military action was still an option for the major powers, but for the moment he opposed such a move because of the opposition of U.N. commanders and the exposure of many French and British troops, he said.

"One must always listen to the commanders on the ground," Mr. Leotard said. Mr. Leotard said the situation around Sarajevo was "very serious" but also "very complicated."

While remaining a full political member of NATO, Paris withdrew from the alliance's military Command 23 years ago to protest at what it saw as U.S. domination of its operations.

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"(They) will meet to exchange views and clear the confusion and tension surrounding the Shaka Day celebration," the spokesman said.

"The three leaders are keen to ensure this day is celebrated with the dignity befitting King Shaka, a national hero who is revered beyond the borders of any single province."

"They are confident that this matter will be resolved in a manner that will allow the day to be celebrated with the integrity it deserves," the spokesman said.

Shaka Day, to be marked next Saturday, commemorates the 19th century warrior king regarded as the founder of the Zulu tribe, which today numbers about nine million people and is South Africa's biggest ethnic group.

A row erupted last month over an invitation to the event which King Zwelithini was reported to have sent to

from Bosnia and will then have to commit their own troops under the worst possible circumstances as a result.

If this happens, U.S. President Bill Clinton will face another difficult choice. His plan to invade Haiti has been unpopular in Congress and lacks public support.

To prevent further damage to his credibility at home, Mr. Clinton could obviously refuse to commit U.S. troops to aid a withdrawal from Bosnia — an operation that would be bloodier and far more difficult than the invasion of Haiti.

But diplomats said he would then be accused by key NATO allies like France and Britain of abandoning them to their fate, causing serious damage to trans-Atlantic relations already strained by differences over how to end the war in Bosnia.

Until now, Washington has said it would deploy ground troops in Bosnia only as part of a NATO force to police a peace deal agreed by all the warring parties.

Wary of greater involvement in peacekeeping following a disaster in Somalia, the United States would prefer to

offer only air support to any future U.N. withdrawal from Bosnia, using warplanes already patrolling the skies there.

But U.N. and NATO military officials say that would not be enough if the peacekeepers run into serious problems and the United States has reluctantly approved the start of NATO planning for an alliance ground force in case it is needed.

The commander of U.N. troops in former Yugoslavia, French General Bertrand De Lapresle, said during a visit to NATO last week that he could need help from the 16-nation alliance if the evacuation from Bosnia ran into trouble.

There are more than 20,000 U.N. troops in Bosnia but they are lightly-armed and would be unable to fight their way through to the Adriatic coast or to airports for evacuation if they came under attack, military officials say.

Although the United Nations and NATO hope the peacekeepers will be able to leave with the minimum of trouble, they are worried that the troops will be perceived

by the Serbs as hostile forces if the arms embargo is lifted.

U.N. commanders have two sets of plans for a possible evacuation, military sources say. The first assumes a "benign environment" and would require only some extra transport planes from NATO and existing air cover.

The second set of plans provide for evacuation in a "hostile environment". Military sources said the U.N. troops would be able to do little else but regroup, dig in and wait for NATO help if they were under attack.

Deploying U.S. troops as part of that force would be unpopular with Congress, which may force Mr. Clinton to lift the arms embargo unilaterally if there is no U.N. support.

But military officials say the use of U.S. military might would be a vital part of any alliance deployment in Bosnia.

"The Americans are the ones with the speed and the power we would need if things went badly wrong with a withdrawal," said one NATO military official. "The peacekeepers who are in Bosnia are too lightweight to get out on their own."

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## Preparing for the big one

OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE reaction to Friday's early morning earthquake, some 20 kilometres west of Amman, is indeed worrying because the next tremor may not be as frail as 4.5 on the Richter Scale. The latest earthquake's epicentre was far from the major Jordanian cities but luck may not repeat itself. The fact is that the Jordan Valley is a fertile territory for tremors of different magnitudes. Amman and other Jordanian cities have a history of major and minor earthquakes. Some 30 tremors have jolted the country in August of 1993, registering between 3.8 and 5.7 on the Richter Scale. Yet the official and non-official reaction to this phenomenon that might lead to natural disasters is so mild as if there is nothing that we can do to contain any eventual damage that could occur should a stronger earthquake hit the country.

To begin with, the concerned authorities need to promulgate their damage control policies in the case of an earthquake. We seem to lack sophisticated guidelines for a futuristic construction code that would aim to minimise loss of life and material damage should a major earthquake strike. Clearly, we cannot undo what has already been built but we certainly can plan for all future constructions, be they houses, apartment buildings or factories. The experiences and know-how of other countries of the world with a history of earthquakes can certainly be used to plan in this regard.

Current legislation on buildings do not seem to cater for the probability of earthquakes striking at major centres of the country. Are current construction designs and construction material, for example, safe enough for such eventualities? Should an earthquake strike, do we have appropriate machineries to save life and prevent wider devastation caused by fire, the failure of highway networks, and the collapse of municipal services? There are many other questions that could be asked but remain unanswered, and this is the time to start probing once again this problem in all its dimensions. What is needed in this regard are emergency plans drawn for the country as a whole and for each work place. Drills at schools, factories, office buildings and public centres would then follow so that our people would know exactly what to do to face such sudden dangers.

We think the way to go about dealing with earthquakes and other natural disasters is to establish a task force composed of eminent scientists from academia as well as high-ranking officials to examine the different aspects of this matter. The recommendations of such a group of experts should then be presented to Parliament as a high priority issue with a view to translating its recommendations into municipal and national laws. We certainly should not wait till disaster hits the country before we start addressing earth tremors in a serious and effective manner.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

EGYPT HAS achieved a remarkable success by organising the U.N. Conference on Population and Development in Cairo because it allowed the Third World nations the chance to air their views concerning population and ways to ensure sustainable development. The final document, known as the Cairo Declaration, was a landmark document endorsed by the conference voiced the world community's respect for religious and moral beliefs for each country and left the door open for each country to adopt the most suitable methods in family planning, said the writer. Certain countries, which boycotted the conference, deprived themselves of the chance to air their views before the world because they had thought that certain concepts would be imposed on them through that conference, he said. The conference also proved untrue rumours that said that countries which oppose the conference resolutions would risk being denied any foreign aid, added the writer. Indeed the conference offered the chance to the Third World to present their views and concerns to the world community. The writer said that the Third World countries have been complaining of poverty and indebtedness and allowing their nationals to emigrate to the Western world, and he said, it is time for these countries to adopt acceptable measures to ensure safe family planning among their population.

## Human Rights File

## More democracy, more crime!

By Waleed Sa'idi

BRITAIN RECENTLY disclosed that its price tag on fighting crime exceeds its defence budget. While we do not know the cost of preventing and punishing crime in other Western societies, we can be sure that it is exorbitantly high also. There is a lesson to be drawn from the prohibitive figures for waging war on crime in the West and other countries that are fast emulating their experiences and methods. For one thing, there appears to be a clear correlation between the rise of "democracy" and the rise in crime in the world.

I do not suggest that the pursuit of democracy necessarily leads to the proliferation of crime. But the fact remains that empirical evidence points clearly and loudly to the relationship between greater dosages of civil liberties associated with modern day type of democracy and the hike in the rate of crime worldwide. The reverse is unfortunately true. The less democracy there is in many societies, the less the crime rate.

When Russia was still a part of undemocratic Soviet Union, its streets were literally free of crime. And when the U.S. and other Western countries further eroded public rights for law and order in favour of individual rights in criminal apprehension and prosecution and punishment, a dramatic jump in crime rate occurred. Even in Jordan one can detect a link between the rise in crime in the country and the relaxation of police power and the liberalisation of

civil protections accorded to individuals. The dynamics of modernisation and heightened poverty in the country have certainly taken their toll on law and order.

As a matter of fact, it is not a must to suffer a high crime rate simply because there is a viable democracy in any given country. Democracy and liberties need not and must not lead to unsafe streets or a drug problem.

Could the issue then be the existence of just too much democracy? Is there such a thing as too much or too little democracy? I think the answer is yes and no. Democracy world wide comes in dosages and in varying degrees. There are many nations which profess to having democracy but they enjoy freedom and liberties only in name.

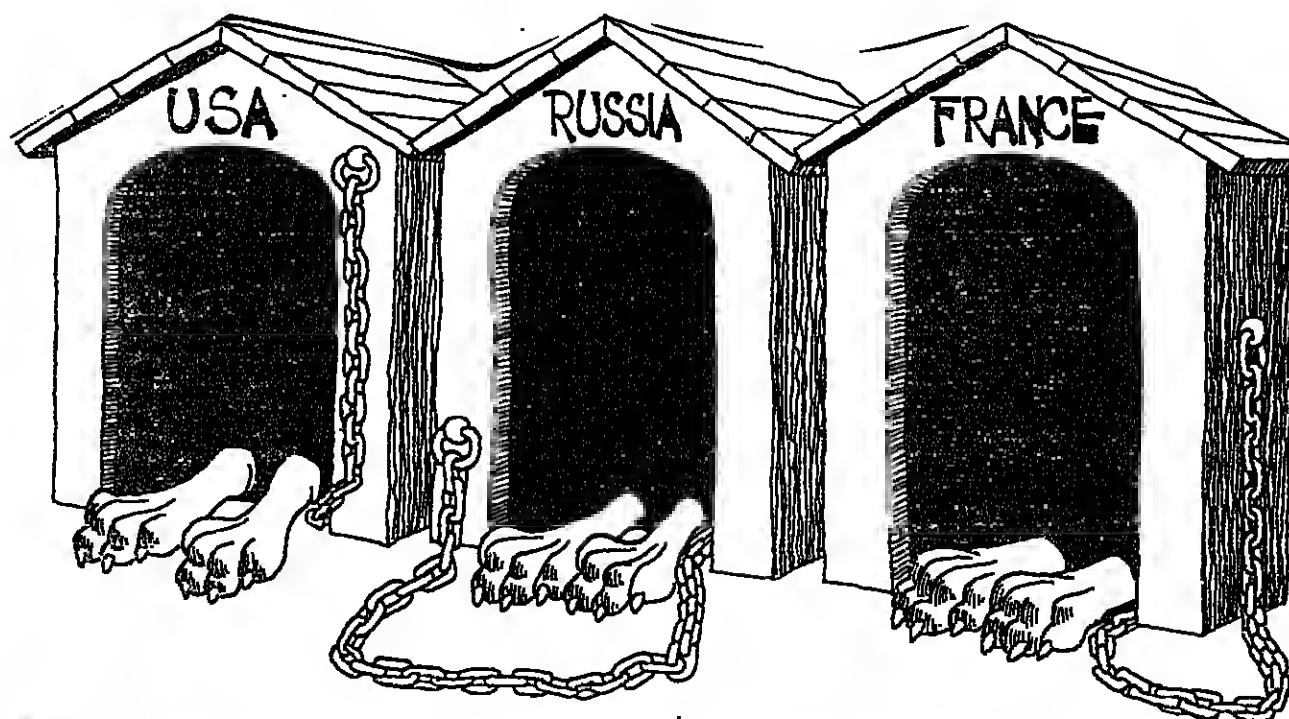
Obviously, such category of states have little or no democracy. On the other side of the pendulum sits the category of countries which enjoy full democracy in word and deed. In between lies the group of countries which have attained a certain degree and level of democracy but have not completed the road to full democracy.

The real issue, therefore, is not democracy per se or the lack of it as far as crime is concerned. A certain state may enjoy full and unimpeded pluralistic democracy but retain a sensible balance between the rights of individuals in crime prevention policies and those which belong to the public. Democracy as such does not preclude the preservation of such a reasonable balance. There is nothing inherent in democracy and freedom that calls for swinging the pendu-

lum on civil liberties too much off balance and in favour of criminals. Yet this is exactly what is happening to many Western-oriented nations, with the result that crime is taking its toll on human lives.

Where democracy per se may contribute to breakdown of law and order is when behavioural rules and guidelines crumble as a result of inflated or exaggerated private and individual rights. The breakdown of the family in contemporary societies, the root cause of crime, has often been attributed to relaxed rules on sex and sexual behaviours, loose parental-children relations and greater economic opportunities that are often associated with democracy. As AIDS, for example, is often associated with promiscuity, promiscuity can also be linked to the breakdown of traditions under the weight of greater individual freedoms and liberties.

The moral of these submissions is that we, the people, can have too much of anything and end up suffering from it. Where to draw the line between responsible democracy and a run-away one is of course easier said than done. Likewise, where to draw the line between basic and indispensable individual rights for the accused and those which tend to encourage the commission of crime is also the number one issue. This is where wise leadership and enlightened people can cooperate in defining where these illusive lines need to be drawn.



## Peace in your own back yard

By Martin Woolacott

THE ARMADA now moving towards Haiti constitutes less a show of American force than a show of American weakness. It is not so much that this is a hammer raised to crush a gnat, as that President Clinton is paying the price in the Caribbean for his failure to commit American forces and resources in emergencies elsewhere in the world. The Haiti enterprise is also an indication of how far the distinction between international peacekeeping and purely national intervention has slipped in the last two years.

It is probably true that the men who run Haiti would not have hung on so long had President Clinton's history of empty words, particularly over Bosnia, and of retreat from situations in which American troops were at risk, as in Somalia, given them hope that, in the end, he would not order military action and that they would survive. They might, it is true, have reflected on a different kind of history and come to a different conclusion.

It seems to be the fate of small and virtually defenceless Caribbean and Central American states, as with Grenada for Reagan and Panama for Bush, to be picked out for exemplary American military justice, often after a president has

turned tail in other regions and feels the need for a display of martial virtues. Mr. Clinton has seized on Haiti, a military operation with the lowest possible costs, to demonstrate the resolve he has not demonstrated in other, more difficult circumstances. He still has had to contend with a resurgence of isolationism in the United States that is so extreme that it shrinks from action even in America's traditional back yard. Senator Bob Dole is only the more respectable end of a spectrum that sees Haitians as poor, black, and diseased, and that wants to avoid any form of contact, from military action to immigration.

It is hard to agree with Mr. Dole that the Haitian junta, murderous, usurping, and incompetent, should be left in place. What is wrong about the Haitian operation is not its aim, but that it is part of a patchy, regionalised system of peacekeeping that picks and chooses its interventions, won't tackle the really hard cases, and uses the United Nations as a rubber-stamp legitimiser, rather than genuinely following its procedures.

This is a world in which the might of the American military descends on a Caribbean island, but scrambles out of Somalia after being foolishly misused. It is a world in which the Russians have been left

## Haiti is a chosen soft target in a system of U.N. peacekeeping that dodges tackling the tough cases

free for good or ill to police their former empire, and the French are allowed to play the great power in Africa, with what may prove to be unhappy results for Rwanda.

During the time that Mr. Clinton has been president, the opportunity to create a genuinely global system of peacekeeping and peace-making has been lost, largely because the U.S. decided that it could not sustain any commitments that were not clearly in American interests, and were not wholly under its control. The one impulse led to a legitimisation of spheres of influence and the other to the effective downgrading of the United Nations, which finds itself authorising rather than commanding operations. The result has been to hurt the defence between true peacekeeping or peace-making and great power intervention in a way that was never the case during the cold war years. In those days, Russian interventions never had U.N. blessing, and European interventions, as with Suez and in the Congo, often fell foul of the United Nations. And American interventions — above all, in Viet-

nam — received no automatic U.N. imprimatur.

Mr. Clinton's address to the U.N. General Assembly in May last year defined the tight limits of American involvement in U.N. operations. Since the U.S. would avoid a role, except in very restricted circumstances, the corollary was a theory of peacekeeping by regional powers. The editor of foreign policy, Charles Maynes, drew out the logic of the administration's position in an article published at the turn of the year: "A policy of regional self-reliance would recognise that certain powerful states in each area will inevitably play a special security role." The international community would be forced, for lack of other options, to search for and legitimate some individual state — Russia, the U.S., India, China, the European Union — to serve as its "enforcer."

The problems with what Mr. Maynes calls "benign realism" are many. One is that it can easily tip over into a new imperialism. The assumption by Russia of an exclusive peacekeeping mandate in the Caucasus and Central Asia is now so settled that it would be

almost impossible to reverse it.

The Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev bluntly says: "This is a zone of Russian interests and this is understood by all." Yet the Russians have not even been able to observe their own rules for ensuring a degree of impartiality, let alone to incorporate those of the U.N. And while this may be just acceptable while the present government is in power in Moscow, we might find it much less so if the regime was to change.

Another obvious flaw is that the anxiety of the U.S. to pass on responsibility is such that it has done so even when the regional "power" is incapable of taking it on. That is at least arguably true in former Yugoslavia, where the European powers do not have the military capacity credibly to threaten full-scale military action. The only country which possesses that is the U.S. But, while it withholds it, Washington still insists on its right to change the whole nature of the conflict by lifting its arms embargo.

There is also the problem that, while what are essentially national interventions wearing a U.N. hat get under way, the funds and logistics for genuine multinational operations are even slower to appear than they were before. Thus the French can intervene in

Rwanda while the provision of transport and other equipment for an African U.N. force — from countries which naturally need technical help with long-range operations — are dismally slow in appearing.

There is a stratospherically high-minded approach to peacekeeping which ignores the reality of national interests and military capacity. It demands that countries be ready to lose soldiers and money in situations in which they have little or no interest, or over which their commanders have no influence, or it imagines that demanding military operations can be organised by unsophisticated and ill-equipped states. Such an approach is doomed to failure. The realities of national interest and national capacity have to be recognised.

Not the Clinton approach leans too much the other way. It threatens to combine the semi-imperial temptations of back-yard policing with a nearly total reluctance to commit forces to other regions, where they may be sorely needed, both the terms of their capacity and to sustain the vital principle that there is some genuine universality and impartiality in the internationally sanctioned use of force.

The Guardian

## South Lebanon endures fighting, awaits peace

By Samir F. Ghattas  
The Associated Press

South Lebanon — The people living on the last active Arab-Israeli front line still face death and destruction while peace progresses elsewhere.

Behind a facade of bustling towns and tranquil fruit orchards, Muslim guerrillas in south Lebanon confront Israeli soldiers and their Lebanese allies every day. Sometimes civilians are caught in the cross fire.

The guerrillas, mostly from the Hezbollah movement supported by Iran, are mostly men. The Israelis spend most of their time in fortified positions.

"We have adapted to the war. You can say we have become immune," said Ayad Farhat, a dentist. He

lives so close to the Israeli lines that the soldiers could follow his movements inside the house with binoculars, or sniper rifles, if they wished.

A year ago, Mr. Farhat and half a million others fled north during an Israeli blitz in which 147 people were killed and 500 wounded. The Israelis were responding to guerrilla attacks that left several of their soldiers dead or wounded in the border "security zone."

This year, Mr. Farhat stayed in Nabatieh despite fears of a new bombardment.

In August, seven civilians were killed in an Israeli air raid on Deir Zahran village, six kilometres northwest of Nabatieh. Israel said the

attack was a mistake, but the guerrillas retaliated nonetheless, hitting northern Israel with rockets that wounded three children.

"We always worry, concerned about the action and the reaction," said Hussein Najm, a 30-year-old money-changer, pointing to hilltop Israeli outposts that flank Nabatieh on the north, east and south.

Hezbollah attacks the Israelis and their Lebanese militia allies in the huffer zone Israel established just north of the border after its first invasion of Lebanon in 1978. Israel retaliates with artillery fire and air strikes on Nabatieh and other towns it suspects of harbouring guerrillas.

Like so many other people in the region, Mr.

Farhat and Mr. Najm are sceptical that peace will reach them any time soon.

South Lebanon has been in the forefront of the Arab-Israeli conflict since the Jewish state was created in 1948. The 700,000 residents, predominantly Shiite Muslims, have paid dearly, especially in the last nine years of guerrilla warfare.

"Our hopes are hanging on the peace efforts," said Mr. Farhat, 34, a soft-spoken man with two children. "We say tomorrow it might come, or the day after, but we are growing sceptical of the whole process."

They have plenty of grounds for doubt.

Syria uses the Lebanese guerrillas as a pressure point in negotiations with

Israel, being conducted indirectly through U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Whenever Middle East peace efforts gain momentum, tension and fighting in south Lebanon increased.

Anxiety in the south deepened when Israel blamed Hezbollah for four bombings in July of Israeli and Jewish targets in Latin America and Britain. The bombs killed 116 people and wounded more than 100.

Then came two guerrilla ambushes of Israeli patrols in the "security zone" and rocket attacks on northern Israel.

Fearing a huge Israeli retaliation, some families in villages facing the border zone moved north temporarily. Others packed up, ready for a fast exit.

A Lebanese-American visiting relatives in Nabatieh said he'd had enough and left after only two weeks.

"I feel sorry for the people here," he said. "They never know whether they'll live or whether they'll still have a house the next day."

The visitor, a clothing wholesaler from the New York City borough of Brooklyn, requested anonymity because of the state department ban on travelling to Lebanon with a U.S. passport.

Despite his current feelings, he is optimistic about the future.

"There's going to be peace," he said. "I bought land to build on when peace comes."

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## Syria to remove export taxes, unify exchange rates

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria will remove taxes on exports and will unify exchange rates as part of a package of economic reforms, Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammad Imadi said.

He said the government was also working to amend the currency laws which impose harsh penalties of up to 15 years in jail with hard labour for currency traders.

The government daily Tishreen quoted Dr. Imadi Sunday as saying during a meeting with heads of foreign trade companies that a new law on shareholding would be issued soon and that the trade law would be amended.

The paper said the meeting was devoted to discussing how to implement directives contained in President Hafez Al Assad's major policy speech to parliament on Sept. 10.

Dr. Imadi said the government would give priority to foreign trade during the next period and would seek to extend the maximum support to that sector.

"We are seeking to cancel all taxes on exports which

currently amount to 35 per cent," Dr. Imadi said.

"It is illogical that Europe exempts its imports from us from taxes while we impose taxes on our exporters have to pay," he said.

"Boosting exports is a big necessity for us. Without it we can't import materials needed for our production," he added.

He said among measures aimed at boosting exports the government was setting a new centre to be responsible for monitoring exports to ensure they meet specifications in effect in the importing countries.

He said the government would also revise the trade protection laws and taxes imposed on imports to make them more flexible and to discourage imports.

"It is illogical that we impose a tax of one per cent on machinery like molds and then we impose a tax of 20 per cent on imports of the raw material necessary to make these molds," he said.

Dr. Imadi said the three existing exchange rates for the pound were causing big

## Jordan government's income tax reform could boost capital spending

By Suleiman Al Khalidi  
Reuters

AMMAN — Government plans for income tax reform have alarmed investors on Amman's small stock exchange but some economists argue that they could make the share market a more productive force in Jordan's development.

The proposals would tax the capital gains companies make on land deals, shares, bonds and treasury bills for the first time.

But companies would be taxed more lightly on their overall profits, according to a text of the unpublished draft, obtained by Reuters.

The dividends and capital gains of individual investors would remain tax free.

Economists say the combination is intended to encourage savers to invest in company stocks and other securities but discourage companies from playing the market.

If the plan works, banks and other companies would

be more likely to channel their funds into capital projects, they said.

Incomplete accounts of the proposed tax changes have been depressing the Amman stock market.

The last trading day, Saturday, saw the index close 142.13 at its lowest point this year, a 21 per cent drop from a peak of 181 points in July 1993. Monthly volume has shrunk to 42 million dinars (\$60.34 million) in August from a peak of 171 million dinars (\$245.6 million) in June 1993.

The head of the Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee, Ali Abul Ragheb, has come out against the changes.

But Finance Minister Sami Gammoh, responding to widespread criticism, told

Reuters Saturday: "The market's fall and the fears of investors are totally unjustified."

"The government's tax plans are aimed at reducing the overall tax burden, including corporate, by getting rid of loopholes and ambiguities," Mr. Gammoh said.

He said the tax law changes, drafted by a state reform committee, were still at an early stage in discussion and formed part of a "comprehensive reform to remove all legal, administrative, and bureaucratic obstacles to boosting the investment climate."

The proposed legislation aims to streamline cumbersome taxation laws and reduce the overall corporate tax burden while easing personal taxation on lower in-

come families, he said.

"How can a government which is making all these steps to improve the investment climate be bent on choking investment," Mr. Gammoh added, saying critics had not studied the plan carefully.

Tax evasion is common in Jordan, a country facing \$6.9 billion in foreign debt, rising unemployment and a widening gap between rich and poor.

The proposed tax calls for a reduction of the maximum tax rate from 50 per cent to 40 per cent on gross profits of banks. It also reduces it to 35 per cent from 45 per cent for public shareholding companies.

Critics say that while it may reduce flat taxes on gross profits, the removal of other

corporate exemptions adds to the total corporate tax burden.

The drafters argued there was "no justification exempting these profits, as the treasury losing taxes on these profits without economic return."

A provision to tighten the taxation of bank interest is causing concern among bankers, who warn it will lead to a capital flight of \$6 billion to \$10 billion, private funds which Jordanians hold abroad.

"I fear it will increase capital flight if they start earning company profits earned on interest on deposits," said Adnan Al Salakh, general manager of ANZ Grindley, wholly owned Jordanian subsidiary.

## Angry Georgians protest against bread price hikes

MOSCOW (R) — Hundreds of angry Georgians blocked roads in the capital Tbilisi Saturday to protest against huge price rises for bread, announced by the government in line with International Monetary Fund (IMF) demands for austerity.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze apologised to the nation on state television as crowds packed into Tbilisi bakeries to stock up on bread still sold at old prices.

Mothers holding babies, grannies, small children and men blocked roads at the city centre, calling on the government to cancel the price hikes, Reuters television showed.

The government announced Friday that the price of bread would rise more than 280 times, natural gas more than five-fold and electricity about 11 times.

Users of Tbilisi's metro network would also have to pay 50 times more for a ticket.

The price rises are part of an austerity package agreed with the IMF to fight soaring inflation which has sent the value of Georgia's interim coupon currency nosediving to 2.5 million units against the dollar from one million early in August.

Mr. Shevardnadze said Georgia had to swallow the IMF's bitter medicine if it wanted much-needed funding from the West to stabilise its collapsing economy.

"I would like to apologise to everyone," the silver-haired former Soviet foreign

## Cretinism 'threatening' Indonesian economy

JAKARTA (R) — Cretinism and other debilitating ailments caused by a lack of iodine, especially in salt, loom large in Indonesia and experts say some economic goals could be hurt if action is not taken.

No accurate figures are available for mentally crippling cretinism in the world's fourth most populous nation, but foreign experts put the figure at up to 900,000 or 15 per cent of the world's total cases.

"If not solved, in addition to serious and widespread health problems, iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) will frustrate a government drive to achieve extended school education and will limit productivity," one foreign expert said at the weekend.

"In hard economic terms... it appears likely that eliminating... (IDD) will bring about overall productivity gains of at least 15 per cent that would contribute about \$100 to the overall gross national product per capita," the expert added.

Ways of fighting IDD in largely volcanic Indonesia, where lava washed down from mountains has no iodides, were discussed in Jakarta last week by ministers and Anna Semamba Makinda, board president of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"Very difficult consequences are happening or are going to happen in the absence of iodine," Ms. Makinda, Tanzania's community

## Arafat struggles to keep sole control on aid

By John West  
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — PLO leader Yasser Arafat is in a tussle with donors and Palestinian technocrats to keep sole control of the multi-billion dollar Palestinian development process, Palestinian officials have said.

At the heart of the struggle is the role of the Palestinian development agency PECO, which began a meeting in Cairo on Saturday without its managing director Ahmed Qouria.

Mr. Qouria stayed away amid reports of differences with Mr. Arafat, Farouk Kaddumi, the head of the PLO's political department, chaired the meeting instead.

"The (Palestinian) National Authority, PECO and the donors are locked in a triangle. The authority would like to deal directly with donors but donors want to go largely through PECO," said a senior Palestinian development official.

"The problem is Abu Ammar (Arafat) has never regarded us as a Palestinian institution. He sees us imposed on him from outside," he added.

When international donors

launched the Palestinian aid bandwagon last year to back the PLO's peace deal with Israel, they virtually demanded Mr. Arafat set up an institution staffed with technocrats, not political appointees, to oversee the process and ensure accountability of funds.

After a struggle, Mr. Arafat agreed and PECO, the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, was born.

The theory was that it would be the central agency for development in an interim period of up to three years until the Palestinian administration clearly established itself.

But Mr. Arafat kept tight control over PECO and it was slow to get started. Officials were not formally appointed until May and the PLO did not approve bylaws allowing the body to operate until June.

Now, four months into self-rule, officials say Mr. Arafat and the PLO leadership are arguing that Palestinian ministries are up and running, making PECO largely unnecessary.

At least two senior PECO officials, Samir Huleih and Amin Haddad, are due to leave the body

soon to join Palestinian ministries. Others are quitting for the private sector.

"PECO is the only well-organised Palestinian institution. It should be the central body otherwise there will be real problems — Palestinian will be fighting Palestinian," Mr. Qouria said in an interview last week.

He denied rumours he had resigned. Officials close to him say he has tendered his resignation as economic chief of the Palestinian self-rule authority but Mr. Arafat has not accepted it.

"There should be no con-

traditions. I believe later will sort this out in a clear way," said Mr. Qouria, commenting dramatically on reports of a battle between PECO and ministries in the Palestinian self-rule authority.

The resignation of Mr. Qouria, a key architect of the Oslo peace accord, brought the PLO to Gaza and Jericho, would be a blow to Mr. Arafat's credibility.

One diplomat close to Western donors described the struggle over PECO and accountability of money as a war of nerves.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 1994  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Pisces Full Moon trines and Plutone brings a lot of energy and emotional force into play. There are opportunities for material enterprises and for home improvement. Keep on the alert.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Extra care must be exercised in communicating with others and in travel today and tonight. Make arrangements in the morning.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Come to a better understanding early on a monetary matter. Later, make call and visits you have mind to make yourself very successful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't lose your temper in the morning so you can handle business affairs well and become prosperous as a result.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't worry about something that cannot be helped and get busy improving your appearance. Entertain this evening with friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) One who likes to tease could make you angry, if you permit. Later, be with one you love for a romantic pleasant evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't take any chances with your reputation in the morning. Later, join a group affair which is your liking with good friends and associates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Changing your perspective in the morning could be wise. Later, do nothing which can dampen you in the eyes of bigwigs.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make sure you pay the annoying bill in the morning. Then you can get into whatever constructive and profitable.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Steer clear of the annoying individual in the morning and then you can carry through with a wise plan which will make you successful.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Work may seem tedious in the morning, but complete it and then you can get more interesting activities which you enjoy.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Plan early for whatever pleasure you can easily afford. Then get right down to business and necessary tasks which must be completed.

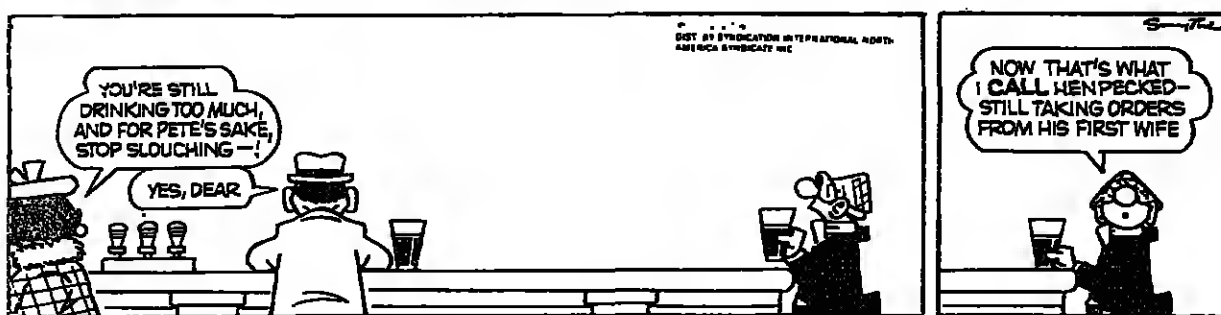
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't enter into any arguments with a loved one at home. Everything will work out well for you whether at work or play.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

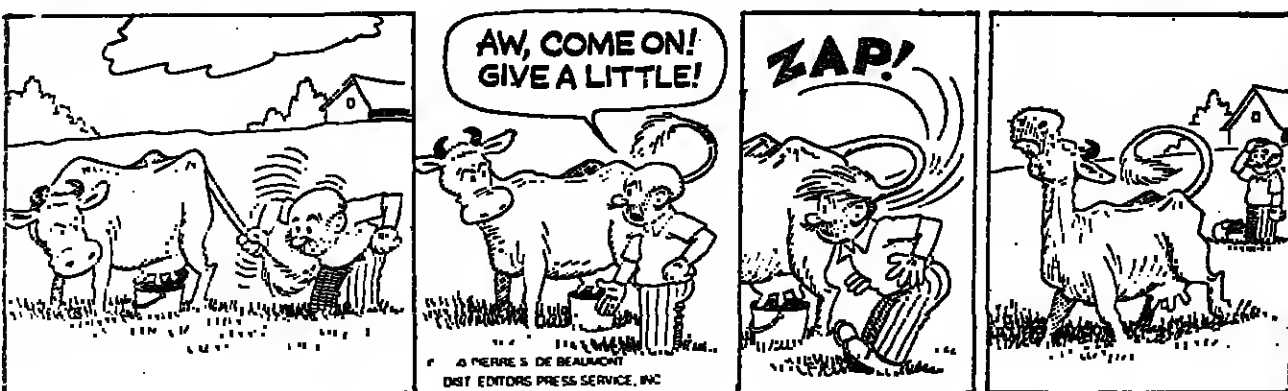
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



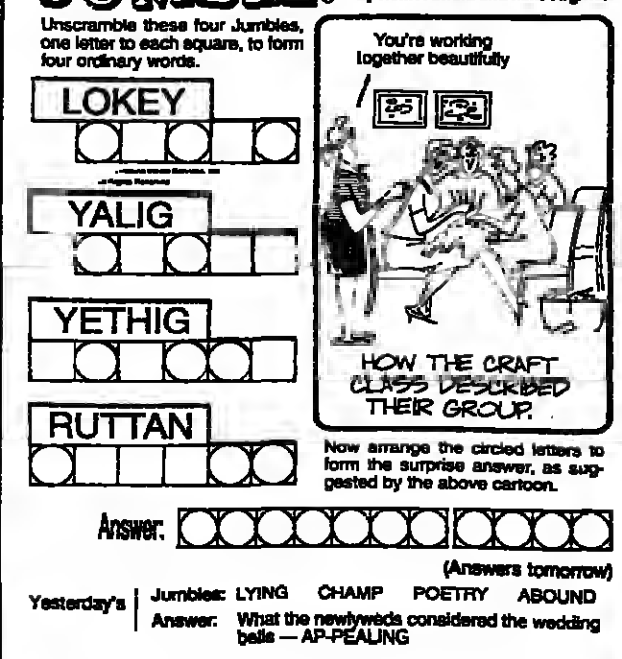
## Mutt'n'Jeff



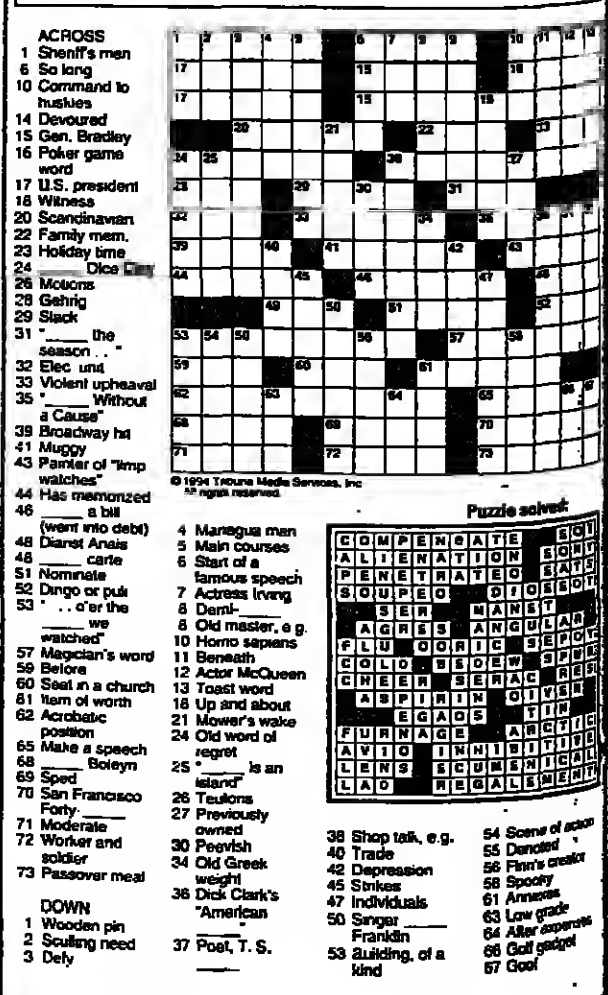
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## JUMBLE



## THE Daily Crossword





Financial Markets  
in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman BankForeign Exchange Market Summary  
September 12 - September 16, 1994

MAN — The dollar depreciated against the yen and sterling at end of last week, as it ended 0.23 per cent lower against the yen 1.71 per cent lower against sterling. The dollar, however, rose 0.46 per cent against the German currency.

The U.S. unit rose against the mark and yen Monday, while sterling sharply against sterling. It rose ahead of the release of the consumer price index next day. Analysts expected the Fed to tighten monetary policy on its next scheduled Federal Open Market Committee meeting on Tuesday 27-29-1994, if prices at the consumer showed a big rise. On the other hand, sterling rose against the U.S. dollar after the Bank of England increased its base rate by 0.50 per cent, to 5.75 per cent.

The dollar declined against the yen Tuesday, while appreciating against sterling and remaining unchanged against the mark. Reports stated that the U.S. unit rose against other major currencies during trading hours, after the release of the U.S. consumer price index showing a below expectations rise of 0.3 per cent at both the retail and core levels. However, the dollar declined later on Monday over uncertainty in the U.S.-Japan trade talks. It also lost in view of concern over the release of the U.S. retail sales the Fed's Beige Book the following day.

The dollar depreciated slightly against European currencies Tuesday, while rising against the yen. It rose against the yen in view of continued market intervention by the Bank of Japan to stem the rise of its currency against the dollar, which happened during trading hours the previous day. The U.S. unit also gained against the yen in view of rumours that the Fed intervened in the market to support its currency against yen on behalf of the Bank of Japan. Rumours that some European banks bought dollars against the yen also lifted the U.S. unit against the mark during trading hours. However, a statement by the Bundesbank deputy president, in which he ruled out new interest rate cuts in Germany, eased the dollar against the mark.

The U.S. unit rose against other major currencies Thursday. It rose against the yen after the U.S. commerce secretary said he is hopeful of an agreement in all areas of the U.S.-Japan talks before the end of this month. The dollar also rose against the mark in view of expectations of another Bundesbank monetary policy, after the German presidential elections in the middle of next month, which happened after the president of the Swiss National Bank took a step from the German central bank.

The dollar retreated against other major currencies Friday, slightly against sterling. It declined along with U.S. stock and prices after the release of the U.S. industrial production report showing a rise of 0.7 per cent in August.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.5445 marks, 98.95 yen at \$1.5790 to the pound sterling.

## New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	9/19/1994	10/19/1994	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5525	1.5790	1.71%
Deutsche Mark	1.5374	1.5445	0.46%
Swiss Franc	1.2807	1.2820	0.10%
French Franc	5.2655	5.2810	0.29%
Japanese Yen	99.18	98.95	0.23%

USD Per STD

## Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	9/19/1994	10/19/1994	11/19/1994	12/19/1994
U.S. Dollar	4.82	5.56	5.62	5.48
Sterling Pound	4.87	6.37	5.25	6.47
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.25	4.75	5.31
Swiss Franc	3.78	4.56	3.75	4.33
French Franc	5.37	6.25	5.31	6.51
Japanese Yen	2.31	2.50	2.37	2.56

Interbank bid rates for overnight (overnight) 1% (1% bid, 1% ask) or equivalent

## Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.636	0.638
Sterling Pound	1.0295	1.1037
Deutsche Mark	0.4499	0.4521
Swiss Franc	0.5424	0.5451
French Franc	0.1316	0.1323
Japanese Yen	0.7028	0.7063
Dutch Guilder	0.4019	0.4039
Swedish Krona	---	---
Italian Lira	0.0445	0.0447
Belgian Franc	---	---

Per 100

## China targets \$10b chemical exports by 2000

BEIJING (AFP) — China plans to export \$10 billion worth of chemical products and to use \$10 billion in foreign investment in the sector by 2000, the China Daily has reported.

The newspaper quoted Chemical Industry Minister Gu Xilian as saying that a portion of the local market would be designated to foreign-funded enterprises in order to attract foreign investment, expected to total \$3.6 billion this year and 1995.

Between 1991 and 1993, foreign companies invested some \$4 billion in China's chemical industry.

"We shall further lift restrictions imposed on foreign-funded enterprises entering the Chinese market, especially for those high and new technology products," Ms. Gu said.

Ms. Gu was quoted by the official Xinhua news agency as saying that the ministry had signed all-round cooperation agreements with four foreign countries and 13 international chemical companies.

Among the chemical projects given priority by Beijing are pesticide projects, which focus on researching and developing new products, ethylene and aromatics plants in the petrochemical sector, in membrane caustic soda plants and radial tyre projects.

## World Bank sees crisis in urban growth, decay

WASHINGTON (R) — With the number of people living in cities poised to match rural populations for the first time, the World Bank said Sunday nations must focus efforts on fighting urban pollution and poverty.

"We advocate a people-centred environmentalism, which must focus on cities, because that is where the majority of humanity is going to be living," World Bank President Lewis Preston said on the eve of a conference on the increasingly filthy air and water in the world's burgeoning cities.

"Protecting the rain forest and protecting biodiversity is important because it will preserve natural resources for the next generation, but cleaning up cities will help hundreds of millions of people right now," Mr. Preston said in a statement.

Michael Cohen, a bank senior adviser, in an interview said for years the environmental community has focused on "green issues" of natural resources and global climate change.

But he said it is increasingly clear that tackling green issues and ignoring urban degradation is not effective.

"There is an interdependency," Mr. Cohen said. "You save cities in part to save forests because if you aren't more energy-efficient, for example, people cut down

more trees."

The bank, which is sponsoring the conference here this week on sustainable urban development, said within 10 years half of the world's population will live in cities and towns for the first time in history.

The urban population in developing countries is growing at a 3.8 per cent annual rate and will increase from 1.4 billion people in 1990 to 3.6 billion in 2020.

Mr. Cohen compared that to the population of Goma, Zaire, which exploded with a million refugees and where thousands died from lack of clean water and sanitation.

"When you look at the pace of urban growth in developing countries, that population is increasing by at least a Goma a week," he said.

While the numbers are spread out around the developing world, Mr. Cohen said, "we think there is an invisible urban population and it coming at an incredible rate and the conditions are not that different from Goma."

The explosive urban growth, including "mega cities" of more than 10 million, has produced horrendous problems of pollution and poverty.

Twenty-five per cent of the world's urban population lives in absolute poverty and many millions more live in

substandard conditions, the bank said.

More than one billion city dwellers, or 65 per cent of the total urban population in developing countries, breathe unhealthy air. At least 170 million people in these areas lack a ready source of drinkable water and 350 million lack adequate sanitation, a major cause of sickness in many cities.

In developing countries, only 40 per cent of urban dwellers are hooked to sewers, and even where there are sewers, more than 90 per cent of the wastewater is discharged untreated into rivers, lakes and oceans.

The conference this week will bring together environmental and urban ministers, mayors and leaders of non-governmental organisations and businesses.

They will focus on pollution, inadequate housing and sanitation, the poor infrastructure and the desperate financial situations of many cities, and on social problems including crime and unemployment.

"The bank has been lending money for urban improvements since 1972 — for housing and infrastructure," Mr. Cohen said. "Now what we're saying is it isn't good enough to provide for infrastructure without paying attention to the environmental impacts."

## G.M. unit in \$60m Saudi venture

DUBAI (R) — A General Motors (G.M.) unit has set up a \$60 million venture to make batteries in Saudi Arabia, offsetting defence sales to the kingdom, the company said.

"AC Delco Systems... has formed a joint venture with a group of Saudi industrialists and businessmen to build a battery manufacturing plant," said a statement by GM unit AC Delco, issued in

Riyadh and obtained by Reuters Sunday.

The joint venture plant, to be built at Dammam in eastern Saudi Arabia, is planned to start up in late 1996.

It will make batteries for automotive, commercial, marine and specialty markets in Arab Gulf states, with secondary markets in other Arab countries, the statement said.

General Motors will have a 49 per cent stake and the rest will be held by six Saudi companies, the statement said.

The statement did not say what the venture's capital would be but G.M. officials contacted by Reuters confirmed reports in Saudi newspapers that it would be around 225 million Saudi riyals (\$60 million).

## Japan boosts investments in Arab Gulf states

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Japan, the Middle East's top commercial partner, has boosted its investment in the region by around \$709 million, mostly in Iran and other Gulf states, an official report said Sunday.

Direct Japanese investment stood at \$4.231 billion at the end of March 1993 compared with \$3.522 billion at the end of March 1992, said the report by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).

Iran was the biggest beneficiary receiving \$378 million to boost total Japanese investment there to \$1.385 billion.

The report, published in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Khaleej, showed investment in Saudi Arabia jumped by 27 per cent to \$470 million and in Bahrain by 50 per cent to \$202 million.

Japan's investment in the UAE increased by 10 per cent to \$535 million and in other Gulf countries by 31 per cent to \$75 million.

More than one third of Japan's investments in the region are concentrated in the Neutral Zone, an oil-rich area shared by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Investments there stood at \$1.565 billion, an increase of 6.6 per cent.

A JETRO official in the UAE said the bulk of the Japanese assets in the Middle East were based in the energy sector, as Japan receives from the region around 60 per cent of its oil imports of more than four million barrels per day (b/d).

Such investments are concentrated in the Arabian-Japan Oil Company in the Neutral Zone and the Abu Dhabi-Japan Oil Company (ADOC), a joint venture with the UAE producing around 20,000 b/d.

Japan has sought to boost its share in the Gulf energy sector to ensure long-term crude supplies at reasonable prices.

But Gulf states except the UAE have been reluctant to admit foreign partners after kicking them out more than two decades ago in a nationalisation drive in their energy industry.

Gulf officials, however, want Japan to increase investment in the industrial sector by setting up joint ventures to help the region obtain technology and lessen reliance on unstable oil earnings.

They say Japan's investments were not compatible with their strong political links and trade of nearly \$35 billion a year.

Japan's investments in the Gulf are also a fraction of its worldwide assets of \$386.5 billion.

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## Jansher beats injury to win World Open

BARCELONA (AFP) — Jansher Khan won a record-equaling sixth World Open title on Sunday — and then revealed he had wanted to pull out of the tournament the day before it started.

Jansher routed Britain's first ever finalist in the men's championship, England's Peter Marshall, to equal the record set by the Pakistani's legendary compatriot Jahan-gir Khan.

But he then disclosed a week-long secret that he had been carrying an ankle injury.

"Two hours before my flight on Tuesday, I told my cousin (Mehboob Khan) that I wasn't going because I didn't feel fit. I didn't want to go and play and lose."

"But he told me that I wouldn't make the record if I didn't come."

The damaged muscle tissue in his right ankle had made itself felt slightly during the first round — and was a spectre hanging over the world number one and defending champion on Sunday.

"Even in the third game, when I was leading 13-5, I was thinking 'I hope the pain doesn't come back'."

It was that pain which had appeared during his match against Marshall a week before when the Pakistan star went down in straight games to the Englishman at the European Club Championships in Paris.

"I'm lucky to have made six titles and the credit goes to my cousin," he declared. "I've been keeping the injury a secret all week because I didn't want it to get out and

first game which the Pakistan give the other players confidence," he added, rolling down his sock to reveal the bandage.

However, Jansher also paid tribute to Marshall, whose attacking play took him by surprise at the start.

"I wasn't happy with my first game," Jansher said.



Jansher Khan

claiming the heavy weight of expectations back in Pakistan had also got to him — "I lost the first because of the pressure."

But he went on: "He played a very good length, some fantastic drops. I couldn't believe it. I've played him lots of times before but he's never attacked me like that."

After conceding his first

game of the tournament, Jansher rediscovered his touch and the confidence soon returned for him to take charge of the match.

And now his sights are set even higher.

"If I don't get injured over the next four or five years, I am fully confident that I can win 10 World Opens," he said.

That achievement would top the 10 British Open victories recorded by Jahangir, although having reached seven of the last eight World Open finals, Jansher has already established himself as one of the sport's greatest ever players.

Marshall, who plays with a unique double-handed grip, admitted he was beaten by a better player.

"I think I surprised him in the first, but after that he was moving better and getting my drops. He was just too hard to break down."

"I think I may have done a few things differently tactically but it's hard to do that when you're under pressure."

Jansher's early attack of nerves saw him concede four strokes in a first game during which he fought back from 7-10 down to 10-11, only to jar his racquet against the side wall like a novice to set Marshall on his way for 10-12.

Jansher put the next two balls down as he went for a couple of straightforward drop shots and then completely mis-hit his return to concede the game.

Significantly, it was the

star had dropped all week, but still he refused to buckle. He tightened up considerably in the second game, rediscovering his winning touch during the important rallies and giving little or nothing away to the battling Englishman.

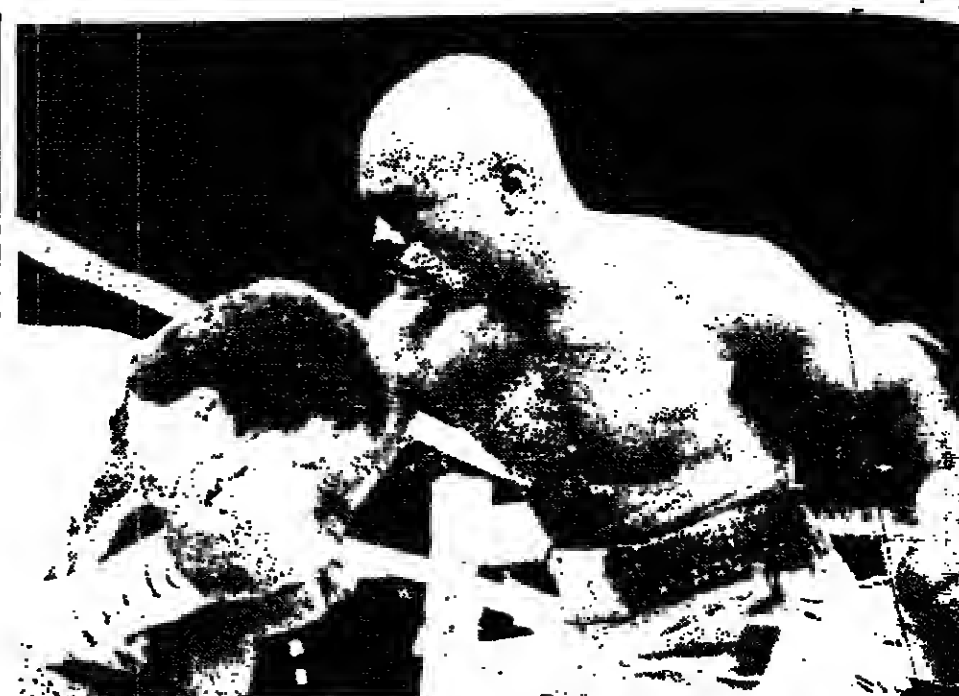
Marshall's luck ran out at 8-10, at which point Jansher accelerated away to 14-9 and a magnificent rally which wrapped up the game for world champion at the third attempt.

By the third game, it was clear that Jansher had simply found a higher gear. He hauled the Englishman around the court like a Spanish matador, finishing a string of points with a spinning, unreturnable drop shot which brought roars of approval from the Barcelona crowd.

Marshall predictably began to tire in the onslaught as Jansher raced into a 7-0 lead and the English number one struggled to pick up drop shots from the front wall. He rallied to 5-12 and then 6-13, but a stroke gave Jansher the first of his game balls and the Pakistani finished with a nick shot on the back wall.

Marshall was again on the receiving end in the final game, trailing 1-5 before again rallying to 4-6 — only for the now familiar pattern to be repeated as Jansher's exquisite stroke-play at the front wall brought him the next eight points and his first match ball.

Jansher took the title, raising his arms aloft in victory, when Marshall's boast shot off the left side wall flew into the tin.



Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico (left) takes a shot at the head of Meldrick Taylor during the first round of their 12-round WBC super lightweight title bout at the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas Saturday night. Chavez won by a TKO in the eighth round (AFP photo)

## Chavez knocks down Taylor in feature title bout

LAS VEGAS (R) — Julio Cesar Chavez certainly is not the fighter he once was, but he had enough left to turn back avengeful Meldrick Taylor in the featured bout on a six-title boxing card on Saturday night.

The fight was a rematch of one between the two fighters 4½ years ago, when Chavez, behind on all judges' scorecards, pulled the fight out in the last seconds after knocking Taylor down and the referee stopped the fight when a confused Taylor did not immediately say he could continue.

On Saturday, Chavez was manhandled a bit by Taylor in the early going, before the challenger lost strength and became a punching bag in the eighth round.

Chavez knocked down Taylor, 27, with a left hook and was landing heavy-fisted combinations prompting referee Mills Lane to stop the fight, allowing Chavez, now 91-1-1, to retain his World Boxing Council super lightweight championship.

"To all of those who said I was old and finished, they can say the old men are old but they keep going strong," said Chavez, 32. "Everybody thought I was through, but I showed them."

Taylor, who said in the last

4½ years he could think of not much more than fighting Chavez again, said he thought the referee had stopped the fight too soon, but he did not want to take anything away from Chavez.

"I thought I was getting my second wind for the later rounds," said Taylor, now 32-4-1.

"I felt strong, obviously until I got hurt. I thought I had him hurt a couple of times, but he's a great champion and I take my hat off to him."

Frankie Randall, the only fighter to officially beat Chavez, won the World Boxing Association's junior welterweight title on a unanimous decision over Juan Coggi of Argentina.

Randall, who did not look nearly as strong or sharp as he did when he beat Chavez last January, still managed to knock down the tough Coggi three times — in the first, fifth and sixth rounds.

Coggi, making his seventh defence of the title, dropped Randall in the second round.

"He rocked me. I rocked him. It was a real war," said Randall, who wants a rematch with Chavez, after the Mexican took back his title from Randall on a controversial stoppage after a head butt last May.

In probably the best de-

monstration of talent on Saturday, young Felix Trinidad of Puerto Rico unleashed an impressive onslaught on power-punching to stop Mexican Luis Ramon "Vory Boy" Campas in the fourth round.

Trinidad retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) welterweight title.

Trinidad, 21, was knocked down briefly in the second round, but in the third and fourth rounds he found the range with a bombardment of 10 consecutive punches on the stationary 23-year-old Mexican, until referee Richard Steele intervened to stop the fight at two minutes, 41 seconds of the round.

The WBC super featherweight title changed hands when underdog Gabriel Ruelas took a unanimous decision over fellow-American "Jesse" James Leija.

Ruelas, 24, was born in Mexico but moved to the United States at the age of seven, but maintains his Mexican citizenship.

Ruelas dropped Leija, defending his title for the first time since winning it from Azumah Nelson of Ghana last May, in the second round with a right to the chin and in the 12th with another right. Leija knocked Ruelas down in the fifth round, also with a right hand.

## Kids 'battle' it off in Sarajevo neighbourhood

By Samir Krljic  
The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The triumph wasn't in winning, or even playing well. It was in just playing.

There were no medals or trophies for 500 teenagers in the Sarajevo suburb Dobrinja. But after being a front-line neighbourhood, once a scene of vicious Serbian shelling, Saturday's finals in tennis, table tennis, soccer, handball, volleyball and basketball were enough of a reward.

The last open-air sports event in Dobrinja, a soccer competition organised in June 1993, abruptly ended when two mortar shells killed 15 and wounded 80, mainly children.

Since then no one has dared outside to play anything.

Despite Bosnian Serb positions less than 500 yards away behind a 5-metre stack of junked cars and buses, Saturday's events were held almost miraculously without incident or casualties. They were the conclusion of a six-week event for mostly 13-18 year olds.

For organisers — the U.S. relief organisation International Rescue Committee and Dobrinja's local authorities — the greatest concern was the security.

Since the beginning of the war in April 1992, Dobrinja has been one of the worst places to live in Sarajevo. It was completely surrounded by Serb gunners for months,

and most children spent almost a full year in shelters.

However, with all three school buildings in Dobrinja completely destroyed by shelling, any event had to be organised outside.

"There was a need to do something in Dobrinja," said Stefanie Frease, a member of the International Rescue Committee and one of the chief organisers. "When the fighting stopped, kids were aggressive, and this was a perfect solution for the problem."

"After almost three years of hell, for the first time kids were given the opportunity to play in a well organised event," Ismet Kapetanovic, a local organiser said. "It made me very happy to see these kids enjoy themselves."

Ms. Frease flew in the halls and pumps from neighbouring Croatia and helped find sponsors, including U.N. forces in Bosnia.

Even U.S. Sen. Robert Dole helped by donating tennis shoes for the players.

The biggest crowd was for the soccer final. Soldiers with machine guns, amputees on crutches and others in the crowd cheered the biggest star on the field, 7-year-old Teo Dzeko.

He was the shortest and youngest player there, but that didn't prevent him from scoring a goal. His grandfather Camil Czeko, 74, walked 6 kilometres just to see Teo play.

"It doesn't matter who wins," the elder Dzeko said

laughing. "Today all these kids are winners."

After the game, Teo, like all the other players, enjoyed juice and sandwich.

"This is super," he said. "I hope there will be another tournament soon."

Organisers said they would like to stage a similar event in another Sarajevo neighbourhood.

"I feel really happy and relieved that nothing happened security-wise," Ms. Frease said.

Mr. Kapetanovic nodded in agreement. "I cannot explain how happy I am to see these kids laughing like this," he said. "The fact that everything went well gives us strength to continue the work."

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## Sports

### Everton another success

Everton (R) scored the winning goal in the 87th minute of the match against Manchester United at Old Trafford, London, on Saturday night. The Reds won 2-1, securing a crucial victory in the Premier League.

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## Everton look set for another survival battle

LONDON (R) — In the 1960s the brand of exciting, attacking soccer served up by Everton earned the club the nickname "the school of science."

But now, six games into the new season with the team without a win and bottom of the premier league a more apt name might be "the school of survival."

Just four months after saving themselves from relegation, Everton find themselves back among the nearly men and a long winter looks to be shaping for the ever-optimistic manager Mike Walker and new multi-millionaire owner Peter Johnson.

For the best part of the last two decades Everton were forced to live in the shadow of arch-rivals Liverpool as the red half of the city celebrated domestic and European successes.

But now Everton face the much more worrying prospect of living in the shadow of the other 21 teams in the premier league.

Saturday's 2-2 draw with Queens Park Rangers means Everton have taken just two points out of a possible 18 in their worst start to a season since 1958 when they lost their opening six games.

Then they recovered to avoid relegation, but this time the stakes are that much higher. Four teams will be relegated from the premier league at the end of this season as the elite division is reduced in size over the next two years.

Since the English league started 106 years ago, Everton have spent a record 102 years in the top division. They were last outside the top flight in 1954, but came perilously close to the drop in May.

And despite the upbeat mood of Walker, they could be set for another season of struggle.

On Saturday Walker watched in anguish as defensive blunders cost his side victory against QPR. It was his 24th match in charge since taking over from Howard Kendall in January. Of those matches, Everton have won just five.

"Perhaps it's a lack of confidence, but their second goal in particular was horrendous from a defensive point of view. It is all down to individual errors," Walker admitted.

But Everton have been making so many errors recently, both individually and collectively, that on the last day of last season they were just minutes away from relegation for the first time since footballers wore baggy shorts down to their knees and boots up to their ankles.

Trailing 0-2 at home to Wimbledon on May 7, they finally won 3-2 with nine minutes of the season remaining. It was one of the greatest hooligan acts in modern soccer history.

In the close season Johnson took over and Walker moved into the transfer market to sign midfielder Vinny Samways from Tottenham for £2.2 million (\$3.44 million) and Nigerian world cup striker Daniel Amokachi from club Brugge for £3.0 million (\$4.70 million).

Everton also narrowly failed to secure the transfer of Brazilian striker Muller from Sao Paulo this week, so there is no doubting the club's ambition.

But the questions remain. Is Walker doing it right? Has he got time to succeed?

In an interview in Saturday's Daily Mail Walker said, "It is easy to criticise and say we haven't changed the team

yet. But we have changed a lot of things at the club."

"The thing had stagnated somewhere along the line, standards had dropped, expectations were going down and we had to change it, not just on the field. There is a great determination Everton won't lose their way again."

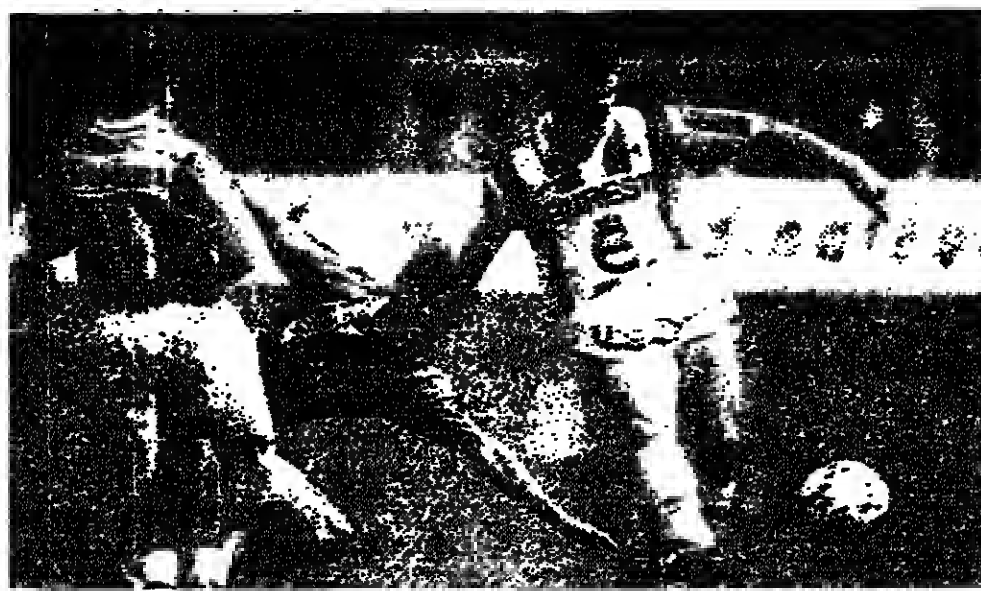
Everton have always tried to play open, attacking soccer and Goodison Park became known as "the school of science" under manager Harry Catterick who captured the league titles in 1963 and 1970 and the FA Cup in 1966.

Then for most of the 1970s and 80s Everton were overshadowed by Liverpool's successes until re-emerging under Kendall to win the championship again in 1985 and 1987. They also reached four FA Cup finals in the 1980s, winning the cup in 1984.

The school of science tag and Kendall's successes now seem a long time ago.

Success for Everton now would be a victory in a league match and three points on the board.

And the longer that takes in coming, the longer the odds on Everton turning survival back into science — and real success.



Espanol's Argentinian defender Pochettino (right) shoots past FC Barcelona's Beguiristain during their Spanish soccer league match Saturday night (AFP photo)

## Barcelona struggle for point

BARCELONA, Spain (AFP) — Spanish champions Barcelona struggled to a goalless draw against league leaders Espanol here Saturday night in a tense, scrappy Catalan derby.

Barcelona were missing both their World Cup heroes up front — with Brazilian Romario picking up a thigh injury during the midweek European Champions League victory over Galatasaray, and volatile Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov serving out the last game of a three-match ban.

Their spark was certainly missed on a gloomy night for Johan Cruyff's team.

Espanol had the ball in the back of the Barcelona net within 10 minutes of the start, Pacheta rising above a crowded goalmouth to head home Arteaga's free-kick from the left — only for the goal to be disallowed for shoving.

Romanian Florin Radu-

cioiu had a clear opportunity for Espanol just minutes later as he bore down on Barcelona goalkeeper Carlos Busquets, only to send a searing drive just inches over the bar.

Nothing was going right for Barcelona in the hostile Sarria stadium.

Their defence was in ruinous shape — a catalogue of bungled clearances and fumbled back-passes went mercifully unpunished — and it took their midfield a full 20 minutes to even string a few meaningful passes together.

Just as Raducioiu was the chief architect of the Espanol attack, so his World Cup teammate Gheorghe Hagi fulfilled the same role for the Spanish champions. The Romanian forced a fine save from Toni with a free kick just outside the box after half an hour, and seconds later set up a move with a deft flick which saw Iglesias Ivan blaze narrowly wide.

However, the home side

continued to press forward and eight minutes from half-time the Espanol crowd were on their feet again when striker Jordi Lardin was floored by Barcelona defender Alberto Ferrer as he tried to surge through a packed defence. But the referee would have none of their penalty appeals.

Things improved for Barcelona in the second-half, partly because Cruyff brought on his son Jordi for Beguiristain after 15 minutes.

But Espanol had the ball in the back of Barca's net again within 10 minutes of the substitution. Again it was disallowed.

Dutch defender Ronald Koeman, who had offset an error-strewn performance with two crucial interceptions, made a poor pass to Ferrer which was quickly intercepted by Raducioiu.

Aside from a fine 20-yard shot from Hagi, which Toni had to push over five minutes from the whistle, Barcelona never really looked like snatching a winner. And on Saturday night's form, they look to stand little chance of retaining their league title.

## ITF changes tennis rules to curb big servers

HONG KONG (AFP) — Revolutionary changes announced here by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) will apply the brakes to the power game which has been turning fans off.

With spectators deserting the game in droves, the ITF has decided the best solution is to alter the specification of the balls.

At their annual general meeting here Saturday, the federation ruled that tournaments played on fast surfaces, such as grass at Wimbledon, will now use softer and therefore slower balls which would extend rallies.

Conversely, tournaments held on slower surfaces, such as the clay at the French Open, will use harder, faster balls to add variety to the game.

Another significant development is the ITF's reduction of the time between changeovers at the end of games from 25 to 20 seconds.

This move could, however, bring the ITF into conflict with the men's Association of Tennis Professionals. The ATP has experimented with 20-second breaks, but last week announced that it wants to return to 25 seconds.

ITF President Brian Tobin said Saturday's innovations were essential to boost tennis' appeal and halt growing dissatisfaction among fans and television broadcasters.

The changes would apply to all men's, women's and junior events, as well as the ITF's four Grand Slam tournaments and international team competitions such as the Davis Cup and the Federation Cup for women.

"We spent a lot of time discussing ways to make tennis as exciting a spectacle as possible," Tobin said.

"One of the big complaints we've also had from spectators and television is that there is too much time between points and not enough tennis."

"Changing from 25 seconds to 20 seconds means there will be more tennis and less passive waiting time."

Tobin said he didn't expect any major objections to the new rules from the men's ATP Tour or the Women's Tennis Association.



Pete Sampras

The ball changes were seen as the only legitimate way to slow the game down, although the meeting did consider altering the dimensions of the tennis court and the height of the net.

"We discussed all the possibilities but there was a strong feeling we shouldn't tamper with the basics of the game," Tobin said.

The ITF also plans to take a closer look at racket technology to ensure power servers, such as world number one Pete Sampras and Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, cannot dominate the game by bludgeoning opponents as they have done in recent years.

"We want to be able to govern future developments in racket technology a little more than we have been able to in the past," Tobin said.

The ITF also announced it would plough one million U.S. dollars back into the game through its 191 national members.

The Federation has given out \$2.5 million in development grants over the past three years.

ITF sponsorship is now fully booked through to 1998, with television contracts for the Davis Cup also filled until 1999.

Prize money for the Davis Cup will be increased by some six per cent next year to more than seven million dollars while prize money for the Federation Cup rise to two million dollars.

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<b>CARLITO'S WAY</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Thursday, Friday & Sunday for children The Care Bears at 11:00 a.m.		Diane Keaton in <b>Baby Boom</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD 41 THE PRINCE OF EGYPT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD 21 Bruce Willis — in <b>Striking Distance</b> Shows: 3:30, 5:30 Presents the play: MA ISRA AL-SABAH-YA ELEWA (It is the truth, Elewa) Auth: by Rabe Shleeh, Ameer Khalil, Naima Abdel Karim, Youssef Youssef and Shaker Jaber. Curtains open at 8:30 p.m.		Presents the political comedy: <b>Legal Evening Entertainment</b> Starring: Abeer Issa, Deoud Jalal, Hassan Al Shaer and Mahmoud Abu Gharib. For reservation call tel.: 618274 - 618275	Today & Everyday Abu Amwed in social comedy <b>"FUNKY BAG"</b>	Presents: <b>The political satire:</b> <b>Al Salam Ya Salam</b> Daily at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday is the theatre's holiday



## Gamaa claims U.N. bus attack

CAIRO (Agencies) — Muslim militants in Egypt claimed responsibility on Saturday for killing four policemen and a U.N. worker in an attack near the tourist town of Luxor.

The Gamaa Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) said Saturday's attack was the work of its "Talaat Yassin Brigades" named after a Gamaa leader killed in April.

"The brigades of the martyr Talaat Yassin announce their responsibility for the operation...near the city of Luxor which targeted a U.N. ICFE bus and the police car accompanying it," the Gamaa said in a brief faxed statement.

Police killed three suspected Muslim extremists during an arrest raid Sunday as battles between government security forces and the radicals intensified in southern Egypt.

The deaths brought to 14 the number of police and extremists killed during the past week in the south, a stronghold of militants seeking to impose Islamic law on Egypt.

In Sunday's incident, police raided a hideout of the militants in Qift, a town in QENA province about 500 kilometres south of Cairo, an interior ministry statement said.

The area is near where militants killed four police and a U.N. employee in Saturday's ambush. But the ministry statement said Sunday's raid came because the militants were involved in a recent attack on guards at a Coptic church in the town.

Police received a tip about the militants' whereabouts and came under fire as they approached the hideout, the statement said. It said the militants were killed in return fire. A pistol and a sub-machine gun were found in the hideout.

In a separate incident Sunday, unidentified gunmen shot and wounded a government employee outside a police station in Al Badari, a village near Assiut, 320 kilometres south of Cairo. A soldier also was wounded. Security sources said the targeted government employee was believed to be a police informer.

The Gamaa has been attacking police in southern Egypt for more than two years as part of a campaign to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state.

The level of violence had fallen sharply since Yassin's death in April, and Egyptian authorities said they had been able to break up most of the Gamaa cells in the country.

But three weeks ago the group resurrected operations in the south, killing a Spanish tourist and a number of policemen, and warned foreigners not to come to Egypt for their own safety.

## IAF opposes Jordanian role in U.N. Haiti force

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies on Sunday urged the government to cancel its decision to participate in the U.S.-led international force that would undertake observers' missions and provide humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people if the Caribbean island is invaded.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the IAF parliamentary bloc said the government should refrain from partaking of this "terrorist act" to protect the dignity of the Jordanian people who "refuse to be part of U.S. policy tools."

Jordan announced on Friday that it would be involved in a post-invasion phase in Haiti along with other members of the international community if there was a need for its participation.

But officials emphasised that the "small contingent" of the Jordanian police force which the Kingdom agreed to send to Haiti would not take part in what appears to be an imminent invasion of the Caribbean island.

The government said its decision to participate in the international force was prompted by its concern with people's right to freedom and democracy.

Minister of Information Jawad Anani said Saturday that the number of the Jordanian police force that would leave for Haiti had not been determined yet and that no date for its departure had been agreed on.

Jordan agreed to join the international forces at the request of the United Nations and after contacts between His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President Bill Clinton, officials have said.

The IAF deputies said: "Our people refuse to be one of the instruments of the arrogant American policy which, at this time of Arab, Muslim and international weakness and indignity, has taken upon itself the task of oppressing the people of the world and subjugating them under its dominance."

"While we reject all forms of dictatorships in the world, we refuse all forms of arrogance and oppression against people," the 16-member IAF parliamentary bloc said.

"If America proclaims itself as the protector of democracy, where is its protection of the democracy that was oppressed in Algeria?" the Islamists said.

Addressing the situation in Algeria, the IAF expressed appreciation for the "wise decision" of the Algerian government to release Islamist leaders Abbas Madani and Ali Belhadj, who were jailed after the Algerian election of 1991 were annulled.

The front said in a letter to Algerian President Liamine Zeraoui that the decision was an indication that "dialogue and the language of reason are triumphing over the language of war."

It said in the release of the Islamist leaders a clear move towards resolving the Algerian crisis and expressed hope, the Algerian people would be allowed to live under a true Shoura system where the "will of the Algerian Muslim people will be respected."

## Prosecution sums up 'Arab Afghans' case

AMMAN (AP) — Military prosecutors summed up their case Sunday against 25 suspects accused of plotting to destabilise Jordan through a wave of bombings and assassinations, opening the way for the defence to begin its argument.

The State Security Court, headed by Colonel Hafez Amin, was presented with a file implicating the defendants in bombing attacks on public and private institutions in the Kingdom in 1993 and earlier this year.

The trial resumes Oct. 1. If convicted, the defendants could be sentenced to death by the three-judge panel hearing the case.

All defendants have pleaded innocent since the trial began Aug. 27. Three of the accused remain at large and are being tried in absentia.

The defendants, who cannot be named under court regulations, are accused of plotting to assassinate Jordanian and Palestinian politicians and negotiators to wreck the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process, which was launched in 1991.

Prosecution witnesses, mostly police officers, have told the military court that homemade explosives confiscated from the defendants' homes in February matched those that had gone off at liquor stores and cinemas showing pornographic films.

The prosecution said that the defendants hewed up these places in an attempt to purge the Kingdom of what they saw as mounting social corruption caused by Western influence.

The 25 men are purported to be part of a clandestine group, the so-called Arab Afghans, which operates throughout the Middle East and receives funding from renegade Saudi extremist, Osama Ben Laden.

Mr. Ben Laden's followers, who fought as volunteers with Afghan rebels who overthrew the Soviet-imposed regime in their country, seek to topple all existing Arab regimes and impose in their place puritan Islamic governments.



BER SHEBA DELEGATION: His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday receives a delegation representing Al Sani family from Ber Sheba who called at the Royal Court to express their thanks and appreciation to King Hussein for condoning them over the death of Sheikh Khalil Al Sani. The delegation members voiced pride in King Hussein's wise positions and his continuous endeavours to establish a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. The audience was attended by Minister of Culture Jumaa Hammad (Petra photo)

## 150 killed, 700 injured in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — Heavy fighting continued Sunday between rival Shiite factions in south and west Kabul, leaving 150 people dead and at least 700 civilians wounded, hospital sources said.

"Based on the daily average of 145 wounded, we can expect some 720 casualties in Karte Se Hospital by the end of today," a foreign medical aid worker said.

It was impossible to ascertain the exact number of those killed in the fighting, as no official records are kept beyond a count of the few bodies which are delivered to the hospital, but hospital sources Sunday conservatively estimate that at least 150 were dead.

Forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani have joined the Shiite Harakat-e-Islami faction in the fight against their Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat rivals with heavy weapons and jets, but the pro-Rabbani infantry have yet to strike a major blow against Wahdat.

"This fight is between Harakat and Wahdat. We have no orders for an advance," said a pro-Rabbani frontline commander based at the state granary in Kabul called Silo.

Wahdat fighters at the nearby strategic Kote Sangi crossroads had Silo under continuous rocket bombardment early Sunday, while massed pro-Rabbani troops were seen loading heavy weapons in anticipation of a coming battle.

From the upper floors of Silo, heavy shelling of both Wahdat and Harakat forces in the west Kabul district of Dasht-e Barchi — where Harakat claim to have captured at least four main Wahdat positions — could clearly be seen.

Details of the fighting were scant and there was no independent word on which faction had the upper hand.

Witnesses said a single jet dropped bombs near the former royal Darulaman Palace and another air raid took place to the west of the area controlled by Hezb-e-Wahdat.

The two Shiite factions had skirmished before, but until this week they had avoided open warfare, keeping the southwest relatively unscathed by the fighting between Mr. Rabbani and his foes which has engulfed much of the rest of Kabul since January.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), at least 30,000 people have been treated for war wounds in hospitals on both sides of the Kabul front line this year.

ICRC officials, citing hospital sources, said at least 4,500 people had been killed in the factional conflict.

Meanwhile, there was heavy fighting on the eastern Kabul frontlines where Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction came under attack from a pro-Rabbani jet.

"There was a mutual heavy bombardment without any infantry attack by either side," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Witnesses said bodies were lying in the streets and the local Karte Se hospital was overflowing with casualties.

Six people were killed and 96 wounded on Saturday as opposition forces bombarded Rabbani-held parts of Kabul.

## Nigerian soccer champions in air crash; four killed

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A Nigerian plane with 39 people on board including a Nigerian soccer team crashed in southern Algeria Sunday, killing four people and injuring 24 others.

The plane crashed at Tamanrasset's airport in the Sahara desert about 2,000 kilometres south of Algiers, according to the Algerian Transport Ministry.

An earlier report by Algeria's Channel 3 radio had said 13 were killed and 13 injured. Officials at the Tamanrasset airport said the BAC II plane belonged to Oriental Airlines.

One of the dead was a member of the Nigerian soccer squad Iwanwanyu Nationale and the other three were members of the seven-person crew, officials at the airport said.

The aircraft was flying from Tunis to the Nigerian capital of Lagos. Poor visibility was probably a factor in the plane's crash, airport officials said.

The plane crashed on landing at airport, hitting a runway lamp pylon and a fire-ruck, according to witnesses. The plane was completely destroyed, they said.

Iwanwanyu Nationale was returning from a match in Tunis where it lost 3-0 to Tunis' Esperance team in an African Cup match.

Last year, the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority banned flights from Nigeria to the United States, citing lack of safety and security at Nigerian airports.

Nigerian pilots went on strike last year, refusing to fly planes of state-owned Nigeria Airways because they said maintenance was so poor it was dangerous.

In a country notorious for corruption, pilots say it is easy for airline owners to bribe their way through safety checks and for pilots to buy licences.

Nigerian head of state General Sani Abacha expressed his sympathy to the relatives of the crash victims.

In a statement issued by the presidential office, Gen. Abacha also offered his condolences to the government and people of the southeastern state of Imo, where Iwanwanyu Nationale is based.

In all, 39 people were on board, 32 of whom were players or officials of the football club plus a crew of seven.

In Africa's worst soccer tragedy, a Zambian air force plane crashed off Gabon's coast in April 1993 killing 18 members of the Zambian national squad on route to a World Cup qualifying match. A reformed Zambian team later narrowly failed to qualify.

The star of the Iwanwanyu team is striker Tony Nwaigwe, who with seven goals in the Champions' Cup already this year was the tournament's leading scorer going into Saturday's match.

The Nigerian soccer team, is owned by businessman and former presidential hopeful Chief Immanuel Iwanwanyu.

## Magazine: Abu Nidal plans attack

BONN (R) — Some German media reported over the weekend that German security forces had uncovered a plan by a Palestinian group to attack Jewish targets in Germany in a bid to jeopardise Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

Bild am Sonntag newspaper and the news magazine Focus said the Abu Nidal guerrilla group aimed to kill Ignatz Bubis, head of Germany's central council of Jews, and to blow up Berlin's Oranienburg street synagogue and the Israeli embassy in Bonn.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top intelligence aide, Bernd Schmidbauer, was quoted as telling Bild am Sonntag that security forces had managed to scupper the plans.

But he said the danger was not yet over.

"We might have been able to prevent the worst. But the danger is not yet over," the newspaper quoted Mr. Schmidbauer as saying. "The German government will continue intensive efforts to protect Israeli facilities."

It said the purpose of the attacks was to jeopardise the Middle East peace process.

The reports followed the arrest and prompted release in Germany last Tuesday of an Egyptian and of six Palestinians.

"We caught the wrong ones. The people we want are still at large," an unnamed investigator told Focus.

Officials earlier in the week said there had been indications of a possible attack by the Abu Nidal group, but the failed arrests had been seen discounting the suspicions.

However, the Israeli embassy in Bonn has been blocked off, causing traffic chaos, and the Oranienburg street synagogue in Berlin is being guarded by a bus-load of armed police officers.

Abu Nidal's group is held responsible for killing or wounding hundreds of people in at least 20 countries, including the wounding in 1982 of Israel's ambassador in London, Shlomo Argov, an attack which ostensibly prompted Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Mr. Bubis said he had not known he was to be a target of the Palestinian group.

But he told reporters in Dortmund that he had known for about three weeks that Jewish targets were in danger.

Focus quoted security sources as saying the Abu Nidal group had stored guns and explosives in Berlin and the surrounding area in preparation for a Sept. 25 attack on the synagogue.

Bild am Sonntag said guerrillas planned to kill Mr. Bubis in a bomb blast outside his Frankfurt home, and to blow up the Berlin synagogue and the Israeli embassy at the same time.

It said the purpose of the

## Israel extends ban on extremist groups

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A ban on two extreme right-wing Jewish groups which voiced support for the Hebron mosque massacre was extended Sunday for a second period of six months, police said.

The ban signed by the police inspector general, Assaf Hefetz, was hilled on the Jerusalem offices of the anti-Arab Kach and Kahane Chai movements which must remain closed.

Kach spokesman Noam Federman, who was freed from preventive detention early this month, said he would appeal against the new ban before the supreme court.

Kach, founded by rabbi Meir Kahane, who was murdered in New York in 1990, and a splinter group Kahane Chai, call for the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories and Israel and the setting up of a Jewish theocracy.

The groups were first outlawed and a dozen of their leaders arrested in March after settler Baruch Goldstein, who spent years as a Kach activist, gunned down more than 30 Palestinians at a Hebron mosque on Feb. 25.

Kach chief Baruch Marzel is the only one of those detained in March still in prison.

However, Israel has arrested 11 settlers in the last two weeks on suspicion of belonging to an anti-Arab terrorist network which killed five Palestinians and plotted further atrocities.

A second rabbi from the hardline settlement of Kiyat Arba was arrested overnight on suspicion of belonging to the terrorist network, police said Sunday.

Dozens of settlers scuffled with police as they took Rabbi Meir Koren, 38, from his home near Hebron.

Security forces seized 40 guns from Kiyat Arba over the weekend to carry out ballistic tests to see if they had been used in attacks on Palestinians over recent months, police said.

Two brothers, Eytan and Yehudi Kahalani, who ran the cell were caught carrying automatic weapons "just before" they opened fire on a Palestinian youth on Sept. 2, Israeli military radio said Sunday.

Police Minister Moshe Shalom said, "smashing the ring allowed us to avoid a bloody circle of attacks and revenge attacks."

Army Lieutenant Oren Edry, 23, suspected of belonging to the cell, based in the hardline settlement of Kiyat Arba was charged last Wednesday with stealing army explosives, giving military training to civilians, passing on information to outlaws and behaviour unbefitting of an officer.

Lt. Edry had received the explosives in 1992 from another army lieutenant, Koby Pinto, who was arrested Monday.

Among the arrested last week were rabbi Ido Elba, described as the group's "spiritual guide."

To the early 1980s, a secret Jewish network launched bloody anti-Palestinian attacks before being broken up in 1984.

## White House tourist taken away in ambulance

WASHINGTON (R) — A veteran of World War II on a White House tour had to be carried away in an ambulance after he fell ill Saturday. The incident capped a bizarre week at the White House that included a small plane crashing into the building early Monday morning and six fire engines racing over Friday out of fear a fire had erupted when a light fixture shorted out. While walking through the state dining room, George Nikolopoulos, 79, of Roswell, New Mexico, who suffers from high blood pressure, complained of feeling ill and being about to pass out. An ambulance rushed to the scene and paramedics checked his blood pressure and found it normal. He was sitting up and talking as his stretcher was placed about the ambulance outside the press briefing room.

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AFP) — A Swiss teenager failed in a suicide bid Sunday when he leapt from an overpass and landed on a passer-by, police reported. They said the 17-year-old was unharmed after the 10-metre (30-foot) drop in Lausanne, but the passer-by, a Sri Lankan, received serious injuries. He had been walking by with two companions. In Lucerne, a young mother jumped from her fifth-floor apartment Saturday with her two children, aged two and four. All three survived, but were in serious condition in a hospital, authorities said.

Pope jokes about his health

LECCE, Italy (R) — A smiling Pope John Paul joked about his health Sunday when he shrugged off recent signs of frailty at the start of his second trip outside the Vatican in a week. The 74-year-old Pope, walking with a cane after surgery last April for a broken leg, told a cheering crowd at the start of a 24-hour visit to this southern city that he hoped his warmth would do him good. "You can feel we're in the south," he said with a smile after a formal arrival speech in Lecce's main square. "I hope that when I go back to Rome I'll take some fresh energy with me," he joked. "That's enough for the moment. Good night, sleep well and see you tomorrow."

Fire guts home of author Margaret Mitchell

ATLANTA (AP) — A fire early Saturday gutted the historic apartment house where Margaret Mitchell wrote most of Gone With the Wind. Firefighters responded to an alarm about 4:30 a.m. and brought the flames under control about 90 minutes later. The three-story house's brick and stucco walls were left standing, but the roof was gone and the interior appeared to be destroyed by flames and water. Ms. Mitchell lived in a first-floor apartment with her husband from 1926 to 1932. She referred to the house as "the dump." The cause of the fire was not immediately determined.

S. Korean man awakes from 6-year coma

SEOUL (AFP) — A South Korean man has stunned medics here by waking up after a six-year coma, news reports said Saturday. Chon Yong-Ki, 40, opened his eyes and spoke at a Jesuit hospital in Chonju, 240 kilometres (144 miles) south of Seoul, six years after plunging into a coma following a traffic accident. "When he opened his eyes and stared at me, I was shocked that I could not say anything," his wife told reporters. When Chon was taken to the hospital six years ago, he was completely dependent on breathing and feeding equipment to survive, his doctor told newspapers. A week after he came to his senses, Mr. Chon is still recuperating from a hemorrhage in his fractured skull, the doctor said. His wife has launched a lawsuit for compensation and medical costs totalling \$250,000 he said.

## U.S. troops begin deployment

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. troops began deployment to the Balkans Sunday, marking the start of a major military operation to stabilize the region after a series of ethnic cleansing attacks. The deployment is part of a larger effort to maintain peace in the Balkans and prevent further violence. U.S. troops are being sent to various locations in the Balkans, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, to monitor the situation and provide security. The deployment is expected to continue for several weeks. U.S. officials say the troops are being sent to help maintain peace and prevent further violence. The deployment is part of a larger effort to stabilize the region and prevent further violence. U.S. troops are being sent to various locations in the Balkans, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, to monitor the situation and provide security. The deployment is expected to continue for several weeks. U.S. officials say the troops are being sent to help maintain peace and prevent further violence.

